

## **Growing Deeper**

### ***Revelation***

#### **Week Four: *Fighting Fence Sitting***

##### ***Revelation 3:14-22***

#### **Spend FIFTEEN – Day One**

1. As we dig deeper into what it means to fight fence sitting, read Revelation 3:14-22. What are your initial thoughts and reactions?
2. Do you find it tempting to give your allegiance to good, often healthy, but earthly things that offer prosperity, protection, and security? For example, do you find it easier to give your allegiance to things like family, government, or an economic system that offer physical, tangible benefits? Why or why not?
3. Spend some time thinking about the earthly things to which you find it easy to give your allegiance or loyalty. Jot down any that come to mind.
4. What happens when that loyalty ends up conflicting with your loyalty to Jesus? Even though we might try to keep a foot in each camp, as group divisions widen, we must ultimately decide which one we will put our trust behind.
5. Look at Revelation 3:14-16 again. What do these verses have to say about fence sitting?
6. If we are going to honestly pursue fighting fence sitting, a great place to start is by acknowledging our inability to do this on our own. End your FIFTEEN by confessing your inability to stay aligned with God. Confess how easy it is to give more time and energy to your other allegiances instead of God.

#### **Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two**

7. To begin your FIFTEEN for today, read Revelation 3:14-22 again. Did anything new stick out to you this time?
8. Think of some allegiances you have to people or things other than God. Most of us have at least a few, if not more. What is it about these allegiances that pull you to them?
9. If you're being honest with yourself, when you're busy, tired, or stressed, to which allegiances do you typically turn?
10. Do you think it's so easy to trust in earthly things because they are physical and tangible, you can clearly grasp them or understand them? Why or why not?
11. When people taste lukewarm water, they often want to spit it out of their mouths. This is exactly how Jesus felt about

the church in Laodicea. Unless they changed, he wanted to spit them out of his mouth. How would you feel if Jesus described you this way?

12. To finish your FIFTEEN for today, ask God to forgive you for the times when, in fatigue or stress, you turn to allegiances other than God. Ask him to strengthen and empower you according to his will and more like he desires.

### **Spend FIFTEEN – Day Three**

13. To begin your FIFTEEN for today, read Revelation 3:14-22 again, but focus on verses 17-18. What do these verses say to you?

14. The church in Laodicea was proud. They knew how wealthy they were, more so than almost any other church. They claimed to need nothing, thinking they already had everything. Spiritually speaking, they were “wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.” They were unable to provide for their own spiritual needs. How were they like or unlike people today?

15. Verse 17 says, “But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.” How does that make you feel? Do you ever identify with those words or do they make you angry?

16. Spiritually speaking, we are *all* wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked. Spend a few minutes thinking and praying about how much you really do need God. Jot down any thoughts or ideas that come to you.

17. Thankfully, God doesn’t leave us that way. He has a solution! Verse 18 says, “I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.” Finish your FIFTEEN for today by praising God that he doesn’t leave you wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked. Find one of your favorite worship songs and spend a few moments praising him for all he has done.

### **Spend FIFTEEN – Day Four**

18. After yesterday’s FIFTEEN, did you spend any more time thinking about our wretched, pitiful state? If so, what are your thoughts and feelings?

19. Does realizing how much you need God make his love and grace even more meaningful? Why?

20. Read Revelation 3:18 again. How do we go about being transformed? Whose work is it?

21. Would it be possible for us to transform or change ourselves? Could we do it on our own? Why or why not?

22. Think about a time when you were unable to fix something for yourself. Maybe a friend or family member had to help you, or maybe it took God resolving it for you, but how did it get resolved? How did it make you feel?
23. To finish your FIFTEEN for today, thank and praise God for his love, grace, and mercy. Thank him for all he does, even though we are undeserving. Thank him for his reckless love!

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day Five**

24. To begin your final FIFTEEN of the week, read Revelation 3:14-22 once more, focusing on verse 19.
25. How does verse 19 make you feel? Is it an encouragement? Do you typically think of God's rebuke and discipline as love?
26. God calls us to repent, but he's also ready to welcome us with open arms, similar to the father in the story of the prodigal son. Can you think of any other biblical examples of this?
27. Jesus stands at the door of our hearts and knocks. His love is unparalleled, even reckless! Is it possible to really comprehend this? Why or why not?
28. Christ demonstrates his commitment to his people by inviting us to join him in fellowship at his table. Even though we often live lukewarm and full of pride, Christ longs for us to return to his fold. How should this knowledge affect your attitude toward others who are just the same as you?
29. Spend the rest of your FIFTEEN thinking about how crazy God's love really is. We stray from him; we desire other things; we sometimes even reject him. But he still pursues us and wants to be with us! Thank God that he loves each and every one of us. Thank him for his crazy, extreme, immeasurable love!

**Week Five: *Intrinsic vs. Market Value***  
***Revelation 2:12-17***

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day One**

1. Describe a time when you did a really big favor for someone; the type of favor that really cost you time, money, or energy you probably shouldn't have spared.
2. What was that person's response to your favor? Was his or her response adequate for the amount of effort you extended on their behalf? How long did his or her appreciation last?
3. Sometimes when we strive to please others, we expect a longer-lasting response from the recipient than we often receive. Janet Jackson wrote the theme song for this expectation, called, *What Have You Done For Me Lately?* How does it feel to be treated as though you are only as good as the last thing you have done for someone else?
4. Read Revelation 2:12-17. What was the church in Pergamum praised for in verse 13?
5. A surface reading of this section of Scripture seems to praise the church in Pergamum for what they did well, but when we look closely, we see they are praised for whose they are, not what they have done. Read John 16:33. Who has done the true work?
6. In this world, we are often valued for what we do, in other words, our "market" value, which is an exhausting pursuit of "what have we done lately?" But in God's economy, we are valued for whose we are, our "intrinsic" value as his children. Spend the rest of your FIFTEEN in prayer, thanking God for what he's done and how he sees us as his own.

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two**

7. What weapons come to mind when you think of power and strength? What makes that weapon powerful?
8. Read Revelation 2:12-17. What term was used to describe the source of John's words?
9. A double-edged sword is mentioned in another place in the Bible. Read Hebrews 4:12. What is the double-edged sword used to describe?
10. Now read John 1:1-5. Who is known as the Word?
11. In the church today, we often focus on Jesus' love and sacrifice. But throughout Revelation we continue to see a glimpse of Jesus that we don't often talk about — the powerful and mighty Jesus — the double-edged sword of God that guards and defends us. How does knowing and understanding this fuller picture of who Jesus truly is impact your

faith?

12. A double-edged sword was likely the most terrifying weapon many ancient people could have imagined. Think back to the weapon you listed in question 12. Jesus is even more powerful than that. End your FIFTEEN in prayer by thanking God for using his might and strength to fight on our behalf.

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day Three**

13. Have you ever tried to tell someone about an experience that is so far out of the realm of his experience that he was unable to relate? On the reverse side, have you ever talked with someone who knew exactly what you had gone through? How does having a shared experience affect your ability to relate to someone else?
14. Read Revelation 2:12-17 again. How is the city of Pergamum described in verse 13?
15. Pergamum was the evil Roman Emperor’s capital in Asia. Huge altars were built for pagan gods, and animals were sacrificed continually to Zeus. The sights, sounds, and smells of pagan worship could not be avoided. As we saw on Day One this week, God praised the church in Pergamum for remaining true to him despite the horrible environment in which they lived. Are there any modern-day places that compare to this experience?
16. No one has to tell you when you are living in a place where “Satan has his throne.” How would it feel to the residents of Pergamum to understand that God knows exactly what is going on in their city?
17. Would it make it harder or easier for you?
18. God praised the church in Pergamum for remaining true to him despite the horrible environment in which they lived. Look again at verse 13; what event took place? What was the person’s name in that event?
19. It doesn’t seem to be an accident that this martyr was listed by name. God knew who he was and what he had suffered, and he made sure his faithful church knew that he remembered this man’s faithfulness. Read Isaiah 49:16. What does God say about his people?
20. Just like the church of Pergamum, God knows who you are and what you are going through. He will not forget you; your name is on the palm of his hand. Spend the rest of your FIFTEEN in prayer, thanking God for his watchful eye over you.

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day Four**

21. Look again at Revelation 2:12-17. Who are the unfaithful people listed in verse 15?

22. We may not know the nature of the specific offenses of those people may have been, but we can tell by God's threat of punishment that he was serious. What were two of the offenses listed?
23. It's interesting to note that one of the offenses was eating food sacrificed to idols. What hidden things does God offer his faithful in verse 17?
24. Read John 6:50-58. How is spiritual manna different from the manna that the Israelites lived on in the desert?
25. God continually reminds his people that he offers them so much more than they can grab for themselves. And certainly more than what popular opinion offers. What else does Revelation 2:17 say God also gives his people?
26. God gives us so much more than forgiveness. He gives us a new name. A new identity. We are not the sum of all of our sins, we are his beloved people! End your FIFTEEN by thanking God for all he gives you, including a fresh start every day.

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day Five**

27. Read Revelation 2:12-17. What did we discover God offers his people in verse 17?
28. Now read Revelation 20:12-15. What happened to those who were judged by their deeds?
29. What happened to those who were found written in the book of life?
30. We don't just have a new identity here on this earth, we have one for eternity. How does knowing that he has claimed you as his own — for eternity — change how you feel about your circumstances today?
31. Read Luke 10:1-20. In this passage Jesus' disciples had just returned from spreading the news of Jesus. What did the disciples report to Jesus in verse 17?
32. What was Jesus' answer to them in verse 18-20?
33. Having demons submit to your will is pretty noteworthy. Accordingly, the disciples were thrilled to have experienced this power. As Jesus reminded them, no matter how strong and powerful our actions might be, there is no greater promise for us than finding our name written in the book of life. It is not what we do but whose we are that gives us true power *and* a reason to celebrate. Finish your FIFTEEN by asking God to remind you of whose you are, whether you are despairing of your failings or glorying in your accomplishments.

**Week Six: To Sell is Human**  
**Revelation 3:7-13**

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day One**

1. Read Revelation 3:7-13. How is the church of Philadelphia described?
2. Read verse 8. Isn't it amazing that opportunity often comes to those who think they lack strength and ability? It seems God does not make the measure of our service equal to our strength or ability. What does this tell us about God? What does this tell us about ourselves?
3. What does Jesus ask the Philadelphian believers to do?
4. What does Jesus promise?
5. Think about each promise in verse 12. What does each promise represent in your life?
6. End your FIFTEEN praising God for anchoring you with his perfection, authority, and trustworthiness. Ask him to make you aware of how Jesus has marked you as his own. Thank him for the security, stability, intimate love, and protection this guarantees.

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two**

7. Reread Revelation 3:7-11. Focus on verses 7-8. How is Jesus described?
8. Yesterday we learned that great strength is not required for God's people to live victoriously, but dependence on Jesus is. What does each characteristic of Jesus from verse 7-8 tell us about the One we depend on?
9. How do these characteristics help you when you are suffering?
10. How do these characteristics help you set priorities?
11. Jesus reveals our biggest need then offers to fill it. Finish your time in prayer. Finish your FIFTEEN by asking God to reveal your biggest need. Ask him to show you more of himself as he fills this need.

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day Three**

12. Read Revelation 3:11-13. What do you think of when you think of Jesus' return? Do you expect it to be soon?

13. According to verse 11, what are Christians to do until Jesus returns?
14. What do you think these Christians had that they were to hold onto?
15. What do you hold onto? Why?
16. How beneficial or secure are the things you hold onto?
17. Read Revelation 21:1-8. What is the inheritance of God's people?
18. How does this promised inheritance help God's people now? Finish your FIFTEEN meditating on your inheritance from God. Ask God to help you see your today through the lens of your eternal tomorrows.

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day Four**

19. Everyone is selling something, whether we realize it or not...Audi, Nike, Apple, our favorite restaurant or vacation spot. Few of us ever stop to ask whose interests we are advancing. If someone looked at your social media, your checkbook, or listened to your conversations, what would they say you are promoting?
20. How do you feel about that?
21. Read Revelation 18:1- 8. The Harlot of Babylon symbolizes the earthly values and immorality of Rome. She represents humanity's pattern of valuing their agendas over God. What do you value? Would others agree?
22. The reality is most of what we value and promote is fleeting and unreliable. Read Revelation 19:1-9. Where could your energy and passion be better invested?
23. End your FIFTEEN in prayer. Ask God what it would look like to passionately devote yourself to advancing his agenda.

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day Five**

24. What is an ambassador? Whom do they represent?
25. Whom do you represent? Whose interests do you advance?



26. Read Revelation 3:7-8. Jesus placed before these believers an open door of ministry. How had they responded?
  
27. When we are struggling, we often doubt God's love and ability. How does this influence our representation of him?
  
28. Reread Revelation 19:5-9. In spite of our weakness, at the end, how are God's people described? Whom do they represent and how?
  
29. Verse 9 says, "Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!" How does Jesus give out this invitation? What would it look like in your life to represent Jesus and invite people to share in his glory and blessing?
  
30. Jesus invites us to be missionary ambassadors to those who have not yet seen the blessings of the kingdom of God. End your FIFTEEN in prayer. Ask God to empower you and Pathfinder Church to step through the open doors of ministry he places before us.