**First Scripture Reading: 1 Timothy 4:11-16**

**11**These are the things you must insist on and teach. **12**Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. **13**Until I arrive, give attention to the public reading of scripture,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+timothy+4%3A11-16&version=NRSV" \l "fen-NRSV-29744a" \o "See footnote a)] to exhorting, to teaching. **14**Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council of elders.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+timothy+4%3A11-16&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-29745b)] **15**Put these things into practice, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. **16**Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

**SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD**

Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me;

Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, Fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.

**Second Scripture Reading: Revelation 2:12-17 (ESV)**

**12**“And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: ‘The words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword. **13**“‘I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=revelation+2%3A12-17&version=ESV#fen-ESV-30715a)] even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. **14**But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality. **15**So also you have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans. **16**Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth. **17**He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.’

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.  **People: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon Notes:**

NOTES FOR INTERPRETATION: (*circle answer or fill in the blank)*

The church in Pergamum was heavily persecuted. *TRUE* or *FALSE*

What those who “hold to the teachings of Balaam” and the Nicolaitans have in common is that they promote *COMPROMISE* or *DIVISION* in the church.

The “sword” is a symbol of authority to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT:

What are the gods or idols of our culture?

How do you interact with them?

How do you prevent your hobbies, interests, or desires from drawing a level of attention in your life that nears worship?

How should we deal with a Christian friend or teacher who promotes behavior in the church and leads others to sin?

GOSPEL SUMMARY:

There are powers and authorities in this world that promise temporary rewards for our allegiance. The false idols of our culture and the rulers of the nations seem to have the power to threaten or reward. God alone is the righteous and holy judge. If he were to be fair, we would all deserve death, but in God’s grace he chooses to love us, and sent his Son Jesus Christ, to reconcile us to himself through his death on the cross. By the faith or trust in him, we are promised eternal life and security. One day he will return as the judge of all people, and will give grace to those who faithfully trust in him, but he will bring condemnation on those who trusted the powers of this world.