

TWO KINDS OF VICTORY
THE CHURCH AT PERGAMUM
REVELATION 2:12-17

1. Two kinds of struggle in athletics
2. Two kinds of struggle against Israel (Numbers 22-25)
 - a. The unsuccessful curse
 - b. The successful seduction – through Balaam’s use of the Midianite women
3. The arena of struggle at Pergamum
4. Two kinds of struggle in Pergamum
 - a. The open struggle – persecution at time of Antipas (2:13)
 - b. The unrecognized struggle – an atmosphere of moral compromise (2:14,15)
 - *Revelation 2:6*
5. The prospect of victory
 - a. Christ the victor (2:12,16)
 - *Revelation 1:19; 19:11-21; Hebrews 4:12*
 - b. Past victories at Pergamum- in outer struggles but not inner ones (2:13)
 - *Numbers 25:6-13*
 - c. Promises for the overcomer– in both kinds of victory (2:17)
 - * Better food - Hidden manna
 - * Admission to a better celebration – White stone with a new name

DAILY BIBLE READINGS
AUGUST 25-31

Follow-throughs

Monday **Luke 4:1-15**

What sort of personal struggles did Jesus face before he began his public ministry? How did he combat the onslaughts of Satan? Ask the Lord to fortify you today in your own struggle against Satan and his temptations.

Tuesday **I Corinthians 9:19-27**

What were Paul’s motives for the choices he made to limit his freedom in various ways? What sort of training regimens do athletes go through as part of their preparations? What areas of discipline, physical and spiritual, need to be part of your life this fall?

Wednesday **II Timothy 2:1-13**

What life lessons does Paul draw from the soldier, the athlete and the farmer? Where do you need to “be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus” today?

Thursday **Hebrews 12:1-12**

Where does the author of Hebrews encourage us to keep our focus when we are going through difficult times?

Friday **I Samuel 11:1-27**

What were the steps that led to David’s multiple sins? Which decisions could he have made differently, that could have kept him from such terrible mistakes? Ask the Lord to show you areas where you need to guard your own thoughts and actions.

Warm-ups

Saturday **Revelation 2:18,19**

If Jesus were addressing his letter to you, how would he assess your deeds, your love, your faith, your service and your perseverance? What evidence would there be in each category?

Sunday **Revelation 2:20-29**

Jesus describes himself in verse 23 as the one who searches hearts and minds. Ask the Lord to work powerfully through the service today, searching the hearts and minds of each person who attends, strengthening them to overcome and to do God’s will to the end (verse 26).