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**Week 3: Pergamum – A Church Renewed in Truth**

**Daily Time With Truth**

As you read these daily scriptures, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What is God saying to me?
2. What do I want to say to God in response?
3. How will I live out this truth?

**Day 1**: **Luke 12:1-3 (TPT)**

Meanwhile, the crowds grew until thousands were milling about and stepping on each other. Jesus turned first to his disciples and warned them, “Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees—their hypocrisy. The time is coming when everything that is covered up will be revealed, and all that is secret will be made known to all. Whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered behind closed doors will be shouted from the housetops for all to hear!

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**Day 2: John 17:17 (TPT)**

“Your Word is truth! So make them holy by the truth.”

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**Day 3: Colossians 3:5 (NLT)**

So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don’t be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world.

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**Day 4: Psalm 62:5-6 (TPT)**

I am standing in absolute stillness, silent before the one I love, waiting as long as it takes for him to rescue me.

Only God is my Savior, and he will not fail me. For he alone is my safe place. His wraparound presence always protects me as my champion defender. There’s no risk of failure with God! So why would I let worry paralyze me, even when troubles multiply around me?

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**Day 5: 1 Peter 5:8-11 (MSG)**

Keep a cool head. Stay alert. The Devil is poised to pounce and would like nothing better than to catch you napping. Keep your guard up. You’re not the only ones plunged into these hard times. It’s the same with Christians all over the world. So keep a firm grip on the faith. The suffering won’t last forever. It won’t be long before this generous God who has great plans for us in Christ—eternal and glorious plans they are! —will have you put together and on your feet for good. He gets the last word; yes, he does.

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Discussion Questions:

1. Read Matthew 16:11-12. Why did Jesus warn us about yeast? What did yeast stand for in Jewish teaching? What was Satan’s tactic to attack the church of Pergamum?

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2. Read Revelation 2:12-17. What factors were tempting believers to compromise their faith? What are some examples of ways they were doing this?

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3. Pastor Bob said, “In my own life, I’ve found that it’s easy to begin tolerating sin when I bend to our culture’s expectation that everyone be ‘open-minded.’ It’s also sometimes hard to define the difference between loving people with the love of Jesus and condoning their sinful behavior. Worse yet, when we think we’re spending time with them to witness to them, we can find ourselves sinking into the same behaviors we were trying to save them from. Over time, something we once knew to be so wrong seems okay.” Have you ever experienced this? Share.

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4. What are idols? What were some of the idols worshipped in the time this letter was written? What are some modern-day idols people in our culture worship? Are there any that you have struggled with?

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5. How was God working in the background, preparing the church at Pergamum for this time when there would be no barriers to the spreading of the Gospel?

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6. How does Jesus conclude this letter in verse 17? What will be the result for those who stand firm? **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

7. How have your convictions and devotion to Jesus helped you overcome persecution? How can we, as Central Community Church, prioritize our values and mission to elevate God’s Kingdom over our own worldly desires?

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