

## Antipas of Pergamos and the Nicolaitans

Revelation 2:12-13 And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges; I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, [even] where Satan's seat [is]; and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas [was] my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

The word martyr was translated from *martus* which appears in the Bible 34 times and is normally translated *witness* [29], but is translated *martyr* only three times and *record* twice. It means a witness but often in a legal sense or even an historical.

It does not necessarily mean to die although in this text they speak of him being slain.

Many interpret Antipas as a Christian of Pergamos who suffered martyrdom. Pergamos was organized with the framework of the Roman State's religious syncretism, with the Emperor, as well as Rome, considered to be gods.

Augustus as the Apo Theos of Rome was honored as a god of Rome. To understand what this means one should read **There are gods many?**  
<http://www.hisholychurch.net/pdffiles/godsmany.PDF>

Also, the goddess of Rome was worshiped in Pergamos and a temple was built to honor her in 29 B.C.. These temples were a part of the cestui que Charitable trust established by Rome for the distribution of welfare and health care to the people.

There was a famous Asclepeion, an important healing sanctuaries (a Medical Center), where Asclepeios was worshiped. Asclepeios was the god of physicians who were called Asclepiads or "sons of Asclapios". Their symbol was a staff with a snake twined around it. In the modern symbol of the medical profession the staff and snake have been adapted to the caduceus of Hermes. The modern medical practitioner and the Asclapios differ little in their art of being more rational and empirical than supposedly superstitious.

Antipas was a doctor of Dentistry. He studied Dentistry in Pergamos and also become an episcopate or Bishop of the Church. This meant he was guiding and teaching other ministers. Few today understand what the Church was in those days of social change. The Medical profession at that time strictly coveted their secret knowledge and regulated the way in which you practiced any licensed profession or taught it.

Antipas offered his medical services and preached the ways of the Kingdom of Heaven freely without charge relying on charity to sustain him and his ministry. He even healed his patients with occasional miracles. He was becoming not only "*healer of their flesh, but of their souls too*". He preached against the heresy of the Nicolaitans and would not take of the gratuities of the established welfare system of Roman altars.

Nicolaitans is derived from *nikao* (to conquer) and *laos* (the people). They were accused of casting a stumbling block before the church of God by upholding the liberty of eating things sacrificed to idols as well as committing fornication. How did they conquer the people?

"The real destroyers of the liberties of the people is he who spreads among them bounties, donations and benefits."<sup>1</sup>

Who are the Nicolaitians?

<http://www.hisholychurch.net/news/nicolaitans.PDF>

Eating of idols was taking the benefits of these welfare systems established by Rome that depended upon extracted contributions of the tax collectors rather than pure charity. The word fornication was not at all exclusively referencing sexual intercourse. It was considered fornication to indulge in the membership required to receive such gratuitous benefits of the benevolent benefactors of the State of Rome. This status changing membership eventually required an oath under penalty of perjury which was forbidden by Jesus.

But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.  
Matthew 5:34-37

Bishop Antipas' reputation for condemning the practice of using state sponsored medical care as idolatry and membership in such schemes as fornication enraged the population. In the kingdom of God the contribution to His government is entirely composed of *free will offering* while in the government of the gentiles intimidation, force and even violence is used to extract the contributions used by those authoritarian benefactors to support the welfare of the people.

Jesus made it clear that our applications or prayers were to be to the Father in Heaven and not the Father in Rome which was the adversary of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.

Cry Father. ABBA.

See Call no man on earth Father

<http://www.hisholychurch.net/sermon/father.HTM>

In the kingdom of Heaven we should depend on individual charity distributed through out the kingdom to care for the sick and needy that have no family to care for them. There has always been a need to establish an efficient system for the welfare of the needy. This was seen in the old Testament and the New. This is in part the purpose and mission of His Holy Church and His Church Sacred Purpose trust. Nothing is more healing than the responsibility of liberty under God.

And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you. Luke 10:9

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<sup>1</sup> Plutarch.

