

UPCOMING EVENTS:

PARENTING CLASS

Starting Wednesday Feb. 25th

Grace Based Parenting is not another manual full of impossible standards; rather it is a new map for learning to see ourselves and our children through God's limitless tenderness - to raise our kids the way God raises us. Email ekids@ourelement.org for more.

CPR CERT CLASS

Feb. 28th 9a-3p

Certification class on First Aid and CPR

Cost is \$25 per person
Sign up at Welcome Center

GOBAGS

Drop off items for gobags to the tent outside after every service through the month of February.

BAPTISMS

Baptisms: April 19th at 1pm

Sign up today to get baptized.
Short Informational Meeting on
March 1st at 11am & 12: 30pm.
eKids! Child & Parent Class: 3/15

WOMEN'S REDEEMED LIVES

March 28th, 11a-2p

Come hear two of our very
own share their stories of God's
Redemption in their lives.

Childcare is provided, but you must sign up.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Thank you for joining us today. This is a short note to let you know that we know what you are thinking: It is hot and cramped in this room. We want to acknowledge with you that yes, the front room is full, the kids rooms are full, and it can get warm. We are working on alleviating this right now by building our own building on the land just north of us (we must be out of this one by December 2016).

There is a lot that goes into the process of Element having a permanent home, but we hope that today you are first drawn to Jesus before you are overwhelmed by anything else. If it gets too hot we may hand out popsicles to help you cool off and give you a sugar rush. If you would like a service that has open seats (and is cooler), you are invited to our 8:15am service. Please understand that all of these "challenges" are because of our love for Jesus, people, and growth that has come quickly. These are good things. We hope you will stay as we work to make more room for you to be part of the good thing Jesus is doing here. If you would like more information about our building process or how you can participate you can visit www.elementroots.org.

- The Element Team

CHURCHES
OF

REVELATION

TODAY'S VERSES:

REVELATION 1:4

ROMANS 1:25

1 CORINTHIANS 12:12

EPHESIANS 5:18

REVELATION 2:12

ROMANS 5:8

MY NOTES:

03. PERGAMUM

03. PERGAMUM DISCERNMENT ZERO

CHURCHES OF REVELATION

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, Revelation 1:4

For the next 8 weeks we are continuing on a journey through what is commonly called “Lent.” Lent, for Element, is a time of sober and thoughtful reflection of what is going on in our lives as God’s Spirit shines His light into the deepest parts of our hearts; this is taking place currently as we walk through the 7 churches listed in Revelation chapters 2 & 3. We are on a build towards Easter and Resurrection by examining not simply the ancient churches and our personal lives, but our church, in light of what Jesus says to these churches.

What do you spend your time and money on?

What is it about those things that draw you to them?

What do these things say about you?

This week, we looked at the Church in Pergamum. The first thing we learned about this city is that its residents were incredibly religious. They worshiped SO MANY gods it was almost suffocating. If you entered the city of Pergamum you would see temple after temple and people offering gifts, money, and time to these gods in order to please them. Much of their service to these gods was based out of superstition and fear, as these gods were seen as capricious (capricious means: given to sudden and unaccountable changes of mood or behavior. We would call this “fickle” or “unpredictable”). People in Pergamum would sacrifice out of fear because they never knew what mood the gods were in at any moment.

Do you find yourself trying to earn God’s blessing?

Our culture is a lot like Pergamum, we frequently worship false gods; sex, money, new toys, celebrities, etc. Jesus loves us too much to allow this false worship to continue, He calls us to repent and return to true worship, a worship of the One True God who is both personal and

powerful. Jesus wants the church to understand that God is both just and justifier, He is a God who humbly entered into our brokenness and took our sin upon Himself in order to redeem His people. When we worship false gods we are in rebellion against the true God and are destroying ourselves by destroying our relationship with Jesus.

Why do you think we so quickly harden our hearts towards God and attempt to find satisfaction/fulfillment in other things?

Jesus says there were Christians in Pergamum, but the problem was that they lacked discernment. They had not denied His name, but they weren’t really living for Him either. This church either had no discernment, no back-bone, or no desire to weed out what was worth consuming and what wasn’t. This idea that everything is permissible and everything is good is incredibly dangerous. We live in a culture that states everyone is right no matter what they believe, but the truth is what we believe radically effects the way we live our lives.

The hard Lent questions for these week become:

Where are you lacking discernment?

When life becomes difficult what do you turn to for comfort?

What things do you have in your home, on your DVR, or in your marriage that are pulling you further from Christ rather than closer to Him?

Where have you placed our cultures (or your own) beliefs about what is right/wrong, true/false ahead of Christ?

Paul Tripp says this, “*when you understand the free gift of God’s provision of grace, you aren’t afraid to admit to the depth of your sin, and it is only when you have admitted the disaster of your sin that you are excited about the grace of Christ Jesus.*” Spend some time in prayer as a group and repent of idol worship and set your hearts back on Jesus because He loves you.

What is your understanding of grace?