

The Church that Compromised the Truth Revelation 2:12-17 - Pergamum

¹² *“To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. ¹³ I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives. ¹⁴ Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality. ¹⁵ Likewise you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. ¹⁶ Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight 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 him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it. (NIV84)*

The Church in a Challenging Location

The Self-Description of Jesus

- His authority and power _____

A Commendation for the Church

- Did not _____ in Christ.

A Serious Concern

- _____ needs to stop

The Only Solution

- _____
- Don't just confess Christ. _____
- Christians should _____ for the world, not _____ of the world.

Encouragement from the Lord to those remain faithful

- Jesus is _____
- _____ with Christ

1. What stood out to you most from what you heard or read in this week's message?

2. If you are seeking to honor Jesus with your life, what are two or three of the biggest challenges or obstacles that you regularly face and why? How do you deal with those things?

2. Read Hebrews 4:12 and Ephesians 6:17. How do these references relate to Revelation 2:12? Now, read through portions of Psalm 119. How does Jesus use the Word of God to shape your life? How might God's Word be used to help the Church as a whole?

3. Numbers 22–25 tells the story of Balaam and Balak and the ways they influenced Israel to compromise with their surrounding culture (see Numbers 25:1–3). In what ways might the Church in the United States be compromising with its culture. Recognizing that Pergamum was an influential imperial city, give specific thought to the realms of politics and sexuality and how the Church relates to these today.

4. Revelation 2:17 tells us that those who overcome receive “hidden manna.” Read John 6:22–59. Name ways in which believing that Jesus is the “bread that came down from heaven” (John 6:41) can help us endure the evil influences of our age.

5. Pray together to discern good from evil, for Jesus' power to help us live and for strength to always move toward Jesus and take others with us, even in such a challenging time.