



REVELATION SERIES
The Seven Letters
Pergamum: Living where Satan Dwells
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Revelation 2:12-17

Big Idea: Though we live “where Satan dwells,” we have the power to stand for Jesus and fight against the temptation to compromise our faith.

Commendation: Revelation 2:13

¹³I know where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

The church is commended for not denying the faith despite the threat of death.

Condemnation: Revelation 2:14-15

¹⁴But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality. ¹⁵So also you have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

Christ is warning the church at Pergamum to reject the teaching of the Nicolaitans who were tricking them into worshiping false gods for the sake of personal gain.

Council/ Challenge: Revelation 2:16-17

¹⁶Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth. ¹⁷He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.’

Yes we all have a little Pergamum in us, but Jesus wants to tell us we all have the power, through faith in Him, to overcome and persevere. No matter what the world, culture, or Satan himself throws at us.

The Seven Letters
Pergamum: The Church Off Course
Revelation 2:12-17

Facts Pergamos means “citadel”, from which we get the word ‘parchment’ –a writing material developed from animal skin, which was first developed from this area. Capital of Roman province for 250 years

Challenges What challenges did the church of Pergamum face? (13)

Throne of Satan: Pergamos: religious center for false gods: Athena (daughter of Zeus and protectress of civilized life, of artesian activities, and of agriculture) Asklepios (god of healing, snake-like form), Dionysus (or Bacchus, the god of drunkenness) and Zeus (King of the Greek gods, god of war; a huge throne-shaped altar to Zeus in on the acropolis)

Antipas, faithful martyr/witness (martus): probably the pastor of the church; burned to death inside a brass bull.

False Teaching In what ways is the 21st Century church like Pergamum? How can we guard against false teaching and immorality in the church? (Read 14-15)

Doctrine of Balaam: Balaam tried unsuccessfully to prostitute his prophetic gift and curse Israel for money offered him by Balak, king of Moab. He devised a plot to have Moabite women seduce Israelite men into intermarriage. The result was a blasphemous union of Israel with fornication and idolatrous feasts (Num 22-25; 2 Pet 2:15)

Nicolaitans: False teaching that leads to unrestrained indulgence.

Repent What is the motivation that Jesus gives to repent? (16, see 12)

After a believer repents, what helps him/her to not go back to sin? (Heb 4:12; Gal 5:19-26; 2 John 4; 3 John 4; 2 Tim 3:16-17, discuss the 2 Tim “loop”: teaching, reproof, correction, training...)



What rewards does Jesus promise for obedience? (17, John 6:51)

What is God saying to you about your walking in the truth and Holy obedience?