



### #3- To the Church in Pergamum Passage: Revelation 2:12-17

<sup>12</sup> "To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. <sup>13</sup> 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, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives. <sup>14</sup> Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality. <sup>15</sup> Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. <sup>16</sup> Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. <sup>17</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it."

Each of these 7 letters to these 7 different churches follows a specific structure pattern.

That pattern is as follows:

1. A Church/City
2. A Characteristic of Christ
3. An Encouragement &/or Criticism
4. A Correction or Encouragement
5. A Promise

And each end with this phrase...

The final line of each letter is, "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches".

The book of Revelation is the only book in the bible that says if you read it, you're going to be blessed-

Revelation 1:3

3 Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

You ready to be blessed? Let's dive in

## 1.The City: Pergamum: Where Satan dwells!

Every place has a reputation-

New York: the city that never sleeps

LA: the city of Hollywood and dreams,

Nashville- Music city!

Tombstone- the town too tough to die

San Andreas: It's not our fault!

Pergamum? Where Satan lives!

Where sin lives.

We have a sin city, but even Vegas doesn't quite capture Pergamum.

It was known as the center of worship, just not worship to God. they had temples for all the big players-

A little bit about Pergamum:

- Affluent city
- Unlike Ephesus and Smyrna, Pergamos was not a port city, and it was not known for its commerce!
- Pergamos was known for its religion! This was the culture. And if it's ever beliefs vs. culture, culture wins almost every time.
- In Pergamos you could find temples for
  - Zeus- god of the sky and weather, also justice, order, and law, the king of the gods on Mount Olympus
  - Dionysus- Greek god of wine, festivities, ecstasy, and theatre. He is also associated with fertility, madness, and religious ecstasy. He is known for his dual nature, representing both the joy and chaos associated with wine and revelry.
  - Aphrodite- goddess of love, beauty, pleasure, and procreation (sex)
    - Asklepious- god of medicine and healing
    - they worshiped the god of medicine, Aesculapius!
    - It is from this name that we get our word scalpel!
    - It is ironic that this god of medicine was worshiped in the form of a serpent.

- All ambulances and medical buildings use the Star of Life symbol with the Rod of Aesculapius incorporated into it- this was a serpent wrapped around a staff!
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- Ceasar Worship- Pergamum was the first city in the Roman province of Asia to be granted the status of an imperial cult center, signifying its role in promoting and practicing the worship of Roman emperors.
- This is why I believe it was referred to as ‘Satan’s throne...where Satan lives’

About the Satan:

What do we see the primary role of Satan in the Bible? He distorts what God purposed for good, ruining and dragging God’s creation back into chaos and darkness. Some quick facts about Satan-

- A holy angel that fell from heaven because he wanted to be God Isaiah 14:12-14
- Temporary ruler of this world and the prince of the power of the air ([John 12:31](#); [2 Corinthians 4:4](#); [Ephesians 2:2](#)).
- Accuser ([Revelation 12:10](#)),
- Tempter ([Matthew 4:3](#); [1 Thessalonians 3:5](#)), and
- Deceiver ([Genesis 3](#); [2 Corinthians 4:4](#); [Revelation 20:3](#)).
- Liar, father of all lies (John 8:44)

“Hell cannot be made attractive, so the devil makes attractive the road that leads there”

- St. Basil

“Satan, like a fisher, baits his hook according to the appetite of the fish.”

The Puritan Thomas Adams

And it’s here in Pergamum that he has the tightest grip on humanity. It’s here that he is flourishing in his short reign.

That’s our city we’re talking about today, and in midst of all that, God has a church there.

Even where Satan lives, God’s church has been established. And there are some heroes coming from here- Antipas-

- You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful Dangerous
  - One Christian in Pergamum named Antipas is mentioned as a “faithful witness.” Church tradition says that Antipas was a physician suspected of secretly propagating Christianity. The Aesculapians (members of the medical guild) accused Antipas of disloyalty to Caesar. Upon being condemned to death, Antipas was placed inside a copper bull, which was then heated over a fire until it was red-hot.

## 2.The Characteristic of Christ

“For the word of God is living and active,  
sharper than a two-edged sword...”

Hebrews 4:12

### 3. Encouragement/Criticism

Condemnation	vs.	Conviction
Vague		Specific
From the Satan		From the Holy Spirit
Leads to death		Leads to life

### 3 compromises:

#### Compromise in worship

##### Questions:

- Are you finding your identity in anything else but Jesus? I'm known as \_\_\_\_ and if that was taken from me, I would feel lost
- Are you sacrificing things that you shouldn't be sacrificing to?
  - o Is your time going to the things it should be going to?
  - o Is your money going to the things it should be going to?
- Are you making good things ultimate things? You're worshipping false gods.
- Are there practices in your life that you are utilizing to bring you peace, health, or self care that are not aligned with the truths of the bible? Do you need to cut those things out?
- Are you giving your ear to voices that you shouldn't?
- Is your praise going to someone or something that's reserved only for God?

#### Compromise in morals

##### Questions:

- Are you looking at stuff you shouldn't be looking at?
- Are you doing things with your body that you shouldn't be?
- Are you in other people's business that you have no business being in?
- Do you like it a little too much when you get to hear or share gossip?
- Do you enjoy it when you hear of someone's downfall?
- Do you exaggerate or downplay events to look better?
- Do you steal? Things, time from people,
- Do you cheat? On tests, taxes, tithe,
- Did you lie this week? To others or to yourself?

## The road to destruction is rationalization

#### Compromise in relationships

##### Questions:

- Are there people in your life that you need to cut out of your life?
- Are there people compromising in your life that you're letting because you don't want to have a hard conversation?

How to have hard conversations:

**Level of CARE > Level of CRITICISM**

#### 4. Correction or Praise

Repentance = lifestyle

- Repentance is the key, it's the gate, it's where our Christian faith/worldview/everything begins
- Repentance is the grid with which we should look through all of life- it's a lifestyle
- It's the internal resolve and commitment to *acknowledge* and *turn away* from sin
  - Confession 1 John 1:9 confess. Some of us need to confess today
  - Remorse 2 Corinthians 7:10-11 remorse over it "godly sorrow" leads to repentance
    - Worldly sorrow is "I got caught"
    - Godly sorrow is "I hurt God"
  - Turn away from it and return to Him Zachariah 2:1:3-4, Malachi 3:4&7
- Repentance means to place yourself underneath the power and grace of God
- It's only then that you have the power to fight the devil (James 4:7-8)
- Isaiah 30:15

#### 5. Promise

For those victorious, you will receive...

Promise- Manna + A White Stone + A New Name

- Manna
  - God will provide
  - God will sustain
  - In short- the manna John is referring to is Jesus.
  - Jesus Himself made the connection between the manna of Moses' day and His own provision of salvation: "I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. . . . This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever" ([John 6:48–51](#), [58](#)).

- The manna is “hidden” in that it is given exclusively to believers in Christ. Only believers will reap the benefits of salvation. The unbelieving world that rejects Christ will never know the joy and satisfaction of faith in Him.
- The recipient of the hidden manna is specified in [Revelation 2:17](#) as “the one who is victorious.” The overcomer is one who endures in his faith, despite trials and hardships. [Overcomers](#) are followers of Christ who successfully resist the power and temptation of this world. An overcomer holds fast to faith in Christ until the end. He demonstrates complete dependence upon the Lord Jesus through thick and thin. [First John 5:4–5](#) encourages us that all who are born again will overcome this world: “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”
- A White Stone
  - Invitation (Luke 13:29)
  - Innocence (Isaiah 1:18)
  - Victory (1 Corinthians 15:57)
  - Freedom (Galatians 5:1)
- A new name
  - New identity, new destiny (2 Corinthians 5:17)

To go deeper:

- [Five Slippery Steps to Spiritual Compromise from the Church of Pergamum](#)
- [Jesus + Nothing](#)
- [Got Questions?](#)

### Life Group Discussion Questions

<https://www.waipunachapel.com/life-groups/>

1. The bible refers to God’s word as a sword, able to penetrate our soul and spirit. How have you experienced this in your life?
2. The Satan is given a lot of titles, one being the father of lies. What are some of the lies you’ve believed in the past or currently?
3. The church of Pergamum is known as the compromising church. Of the 3 areas of compromise, did the Holy Spirit convict you of anything? Share as you feel led.
4. What makes it difficult for you to repent sometimes? Confession/acknowledging your sin? Godly sorrow? Not returning to Him?
5. Which of the 3 promises do you find the most encouraging? Why?

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