

# "The Compromising Church"

THE CHURCH AT PERGAMUM      REV. 2 : 12 - 17

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. Pastor Joe's personal commentary is in brackets and modify words underlined with dots. You can find this passage in your Pew Bible on page 1192.

## REVIEW FROM LAST WEEK'S MESSAGE:

- The church at Smyrna was the faithful church—"Faithful Unto Death."
- Our persecution and pain is temporary; our riches are eternal.
- We are not to be fearful, but faithful to God—even unto death.
- Jesus Christ is coming again to rescue those who believe in Him.



## 1. CHURCH—The Church in Pergamum.

Revelation 2:12, NIV84 -<sup>12</sup> "To the angel of the church in Pergamum write... [The common name **Pergamos** (Proper form: Pergamum) – [Gk. Πέργαμος] The Greek prefix *per*, seen in words like "pervert," means *opposition*. The suffix *gamos*, like "monogamy," means "marriage." Pergamos, then, means "perverted marriage" or "objectionable marriage"—a fitting description of this culture."

## 2. CONFIRMATION—Jesus carries a two-edged sword—a symbol of his power and authority.

Revelation 2:12, NIV84 -<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."

- **The Sword of Pergamos**—dedicated to Aesculapius (which gives us our word *scalpel*); this false god of healing was symbolized by a serpent wrapped around a pole—it's still used today.

See illustration 



- **The Sword of Rome**—Roman soldiers carried them.
- **The Sword of Christ**—Rev. 2:12, TLB - "This message is from him who wields the sharp and double-bladed sword."

## 3. COMMENDATION—They live at "Satan's Throne."

Revelation 2:13, NIV84 -<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, even in the days of Antipas [According to the historian Tertullian, Antipas, a physician, wouldn't renounce his faith in Christ and was therefore "fried to death"], *my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.*"

## 4. COMPLAINT—They compromised their moral standards by drifting into worldliness.

Revelation 2:14–15, NIV84 -<sup>14</sup> "Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam [A false prophet who failed to curse the Israelites and then devised another plan; cf., Numbers 22, "If your women seduce the Israelite men...they can introduce idol worship to them through which Israel will thereby bring a curse upon herself"], *who taught Balaak* [The Moabite king that wanted the curse on his enemy, Israel] *to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality.*<sup>15</sup> *Likewise you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.*" [Remember, they taught that objectionable sexual practices of the world were not a sin].

"Compromising or *tolerance* is the virtue of a man with no conviction!" - Pastor Joe

## 5. COMMAND—Repent and stick with The Word.

Revelation 2:16, NIV84 -<sup>16</sup> "Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth."

## 6. COMFORT—If you repent, I'll give you manna, a white stone, and a new name.

Revelation 2:17, TLB -<sup>17</sup> "Let everyone who can hear, listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches: Everyone who is victorious shall eat of the hidden manna, the secret nourishment from heaven; and I will give to each a white stone, and on the stone will be engraved a new name..."



**WE MUST NEVER COMPROMISE  
OUR CHRISTIAN STANDARDS!**



## **ANSWERS TO "THE COMPROMISING CHURCH" MESSAGE**

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