

COMPROMISING CHURCH
REV. 2:12-17 / 5-2-18 / WED

I. JESUS' COMMENDATION OF PERGAMUM.

- A. Jesus knew their situation—2:13a—**“I know where you live—where Satan has his throne...”**
1. Notice that Satan lives on earth not in hell—Eph. 6:12.
 2. “Satan” may symbolize Emperor Worship.
- B. Jesus knew their steadfastness—2:13b—**“... Yet you remain true to my name...”**
- C. Jesus knew their sacrifice—2:13c—**“..... 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.”**

II. JESUS' CONFRONTATION OF PERGAMUM.

- A. Jesus confronted their compromising faith—2:14a—**“Nevertheless, I have a few things against you...”**
1. The word “Pergamum” means “married.”
 2. Jesus offered two examples of their compromising faith.
 - a. Some of the Pergamum Christians held to a teaching similar to that regarding Balaam mentioned in the Old Testament—2:14—**“ 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.”**
 - b. Some other Pergamum Christians followed the heretical teachings of the Nicolaitans—2:15—**“Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.**
 - c. Some scholars both references to Balaam and the Nicolaitans refers to the same heresy.
- B. Jesus' cure for a compromising faith is found in 2:16.
1. The cure is to repent—2:16a—**“Repent therefore!”**
 2. The consequence of not repenting is also found in 2:16b—**“Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.”**

III. JESUS' CONSOLATION TO PERGAMUM.

- A. Jesus promised that they could overcome the temptation to compromise their faith—2:17a—**“Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious...”**
- B. Jesus offered two rewards to those who refused to compromise their faith.
 - 1. Jesus offered “hidden manna”—2:17b—**“I will give some of the hidden manna....”**
 - 2. Jesus also offered a “white stone”—2:17c—**“I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.”**