

# Pergamum September 7, 2025 Seven Letters - Seven Churches

September 3, 2025

## Pergamum - The Compromising Church



### Revelation 2:12-17

And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, “These things says he who has the sharp two-edged sword: I Know your works and where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, and to commit sexual immorality. Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against you with the sword of My mouth. He who has an ear, let him hear what the” Spirit says to the church. To him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.”

## **God's Hand on The Region**

1. When Alexander the Great conquered the Persian Empire he ushered in a unified culture and a unified language
  - a. Greek Culture
  - b. Greek Language
2. Pergamum was the Capital City of the Pergamum Empire (Asia Minor)
  - a. King Attalus had a treaty with the Roman Empire
  - b. Upon the death of Attalus III, the Pergamum Empire (Asia Minor) was bequeathed to the Roman Empire.
3. Asia Minor (Pergamum Empire) was surrounded by three major bodies of water:
  - a. Black Sea
  - b. Aegean Sea
  - c. Mediterranean Sea
4. This opened up incredible opportunities for the Roman Empire - giving it access to the known Region
5. This was an INCREDIBLE Day for the Gospel! - God's Hand was at work hundreds of years before the birth of the Savior preparing avenues for the Gospel to be taken throughout the known world.

## **God's Hand on Your Life**

1. I Know the plans I have for you... Jeremiah 29:11 NLT
2. Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ... Ephesians 1:4 NLT
3. The Apostle Paul said, "but even before I was born, God chose me and called me by his marvelous grace. Then it pleased him to reveal his Son to me so that I would proclaim the Good News of Jesus to the Gentiles." Galatians 1:15 NLT
4. God has a Plan for YOUR Life!
5. God has a Plan for This CHURCH!

## **Pergamum - where Satan has his throne**

1. Pergamum was a mighty city sitting high for everyone to see (affording it protection.)

2. It was home to one of the largest theaters in it's time - able to seat 10,000 people.
3. It was know for it's Library containing 200,000 volumes
4. It was also known for having a Temple for almost Every major Deity
  - a. Zeus - Power King of Mt Olympus
  - b. Dionysus - Pleasure - Festivity - Religious Ecstasy (sometimes leading to human sacrifice)
  - c. Demeter - Goddess of Agriculture, Harvest and Fertility
  - d. Athena - Goddess of Wisdom, War and Handicraft
  - e. Asklepios - Greek god of healing and medicine
5. Imagine walking down the strip of Vegas - Pergamum was an ancient preview of the America's "sin city."

## **Doctrine of Balaam - Compromise**

1. Compromise - Definition by *Oxford Languages*
  - a. Settle a dispute by mutual concession (Meet each other half way)
  - b. Accept standards that are lower than is desirable. (to Compromise on Safety)
2. While the church in Pergamum held fast to the name of Jesus, they began to Compromise.
3. They were no longer welcome in the Synagogue. They didn't / couldn't frequent the pagan temples. But they began to Compromise.
  - a. The tried to "fit into the community"
  - b. They would worship on Sunday and purchase meat in the market that had been offered to idols on Monday - Compromise
  - c. Raise their hands on Sunday - talk about another on Tuesday - Compromise
  - d. Look "Churchy" on "Church Day" but act like the Devil on Wednesday
  - e. Go to Mid-Week Service on Wednesday, but hang out with the "boys" or the "girls" after work on Friday
4. Compromise is Satan's way of beginning to take you to a place you don't want to go
  - a. Lot only pitched his tent "toward Sodom to start with" - Compromise

b. How did he get inside the city? - Compromise - Just checking it out...

## **The Church today Cannot COMPROMISE the Word**

1. One of the hardest things for the Western Church to understand is Kingdom Mentality - God's Kingdom is not a democracy. It's not up for a vote
2. Jesus is the King of Kings and the Word of God is His Covenant - his Decree.
3. He does not force anyone into His Kingdom. But if you Choose to dwell in the Kingdom of God, you must choose to live by His Word.
4. Example - Couple living together in Illinois

## **Repent**

1. Acknowledge your Sin
2. Ask God to Forgive
3. Make a Conscious Decision to Change

## **White Stone with New Name**

1. White Stone - Purity, Stability
2. New Name - New DNA - a Name only God knows