



When the Spirit Speaks to the Church

**The First Church of Compromise
Revelation 2:12-17**

What we hold to, will eventually take hold of us!

Text Message:

o Some more background stuff:

1) The church in Pergamum is the third of seven regions or churches addressed by Jesus, who has the “sharp two-edged sword,” a symbol for the truth of God’s Word.

2) The book of Revelation is apocalyptic literature, which uses highly symbolic literature to address current crises.

3) “Satan’s throne” in Pergamum probably referred to the serpent-god Asclepius, god of

healing and called “savior.”

- o A key word to the Church in Pergamum is the word “hold,” the Greek verb κρατεω (*krateo*), sometimes translated as “seize” and carries the idea of holding on firmly and not letting go!
- o Look at all the “holding calls” to the Church in Pergamum:
 - 1) To Jesus’ Name, even to martyrdom (Verse 13).
 - 2) The teaching of Balaam (Materially/money motivated).
 - 3) The teaching of the Nicolaitans (Sexual sin/exploitation).
- o In addition, Pergamum was a huge political center due to its worship of the Roman emperor and allegiance to Caesar.
- o A key problem of the church in Pergamum was compromise: compromise with political powers, morality, and materialism.

It’s our responsibility to repent for the sins of the church!

¹⁶ “Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth.”

Text Message:

- o Notice Jesus addresses the entire church in Pergamum, not just those who were guilty of holding onto false teaching.
- o We tend to think of repentance as “what I do when I sin” (it is!), but it is also recognizing “we” are part of a bigger “us!”
- o Any tolerance of sin in the church is like the proverbial snowball rolling downhill!
- o We must be ruthless in our own lives against “the sin that so easily trips us up.” Hebrews 12:1, *New Living Translation*
- o God has not reneged on holiness of life:
As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”
Peter 1:14-16
- o Peter wasn’t perfect (none of us are!), but that didn’t keep him from fervently becoming like Christ!

Right here, right now, in our place in redemptive history, there is more of Christ to be experienced!

¹⁷ He 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.'

Text Message:

- o Remember, these blessings are symbolic language used to describe spiritual realities:
 - 1) Hidden manna. The very least we can say about this is that it refers to being nourished and filled with Christ.
 - 2) White stone with a new name. Probably refers to a white stone used as a “ticket” for admission to pagan banquets.
- o Regardless, what Jesus was offering the church in Pergamum and offers to us is ***more of Him!***