

“The Compromising Church”  
Revelation 2:12-17

~ LETS PRAY ~

TODAY WE'RE LOOKING AT:

- “The Compromising Church”

TURN TO REVELATION 2...

- And follow along in our text (vv.12-17).

WE'VE SEEN...

- Ephesus = Left first love
  - Smyrna = Persecuted church

NOW... Pergamos = The compromised church

**POINT #1 – THE HISTORY:**

NOW...

- This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Church Jesus speaks to.

PERGAMOS WAS A SUPER DESIRABLE PLACE TO LIVE...

- Because it had an abundance of good features:
  - Education opportunities
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> largest library in the world (200,000 volumes).
  - Advanced medicine with good doctors.
  - Health clubs.
  - Attractive night life with their theaters.
- It was one of the best cities around!

WELL... THE NAME...

- Pergamos means = “Objectionable marriage!”

IT'S NOT BY COINCIDENCE THAT JESUS SAYS...

- You cannot serve two masters – (Matt. 6:24) NLT.

JESUS WAS ADDRESSING...

- A compromised church living in a *well-to-do* City...
  - And who downplayed foundational truths (doctrines).

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INTERESTING TO NOTE...

- That in (Rev. 2:6) the church at **Ephesus** was commended...
  - For hating the deeds of the Nicolaitans...
    - Whereas here in **Pergamos**...
      - They embraced them (Rev. 2:15).

IN EPHESUS...

- The church understood that in order to truly love the sinner...
  - You have to hate the sin.

IN PERGAMOS...

- They embraced the sinner **BY accepting sin.**
- They compromised doctrine & morality...
  - For the sake of just getting along.
- Perhaps they didn't want to disrupt the comforts of their own lives?

NO DOUBT A PROBLEM THE CHURCH...

- Still struggles with today...
  - So there's plenty here to apply to our lives!

**POINT #2 – THE MESSAGE:**

(v.12)

*“These things says He has the sharp two-edged sword:”*

CHUCK SWINDOLL SAYS...

- “... *This symbolizes a verbal pronouncement of judgment.*”

GANG... MAY WE UNDERSTAND... THAT GOD'S WORD DIVIDES!

- We can put all the nice language on it that we want to...
  - But the reality of it is...
    - Jesus said He brings a sword (Matt. 10:34-39) NLT.

GODS WORD IS PRECISE...

- And cuts to the heart of the spiritual problem.
  - And this is the part that can become offensive!
    - (Heb. 4:12) NLT.

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BUT MAY WE NOT FORGET...

- That the reason Jesus is so straightforward...
  - Is because how deeply He loves us.

THE BIBLE SAYS (Prov. 27:6)...

*“Faithful are the wounds of a friend,  
but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.”*

ALRIGHT...

(v.13) COMMENDATIONS...

- a) Good works
- b) Right in the middle of a difficult City
- c) And you didn’t deny my name during persecution

NOW IN (vv.14-15) CORRECTION...

- As Jesus Himself calls out the BAD doctrine.

SATAN...

- Went from a place of trying to stop the church with persecution...
  - (Which didn’t work at Smyrna)...
    - To ushering in a compromised church in Pergamos.

**Why?**

Because **wrong belief** always leads to **wrong behavior!**

(v.14) *“But I have a few things against you...”*

1) **Doctrine of Balaam:**

- **Idolatry** – They invested their time / attention / & money into other commitments that satisfied the desires of basic instincts, but led away from Christ. (Lust of the eyes)
- **Sexual immorality** – This is an area that entices the *lust of the flesh* by using God given desires, BUT fulfilling them in outside of God’s plan (temptations satisfied by tasting OR touching forbidden fruit).

2) **Doctrine of Nicolaitans:**

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- *Nikao* = to conquer
- *Laos* = people

- The same two practices of *idolatry* & *sexual immorality* were embraced, in order to subdue and quiet any potential revolt of the people.

THE POINT BEHIND...

- These two doctrines are...
- **They infiltrated & infected the church.**

SO SATAN...

- Tries to get people to compromise...
- In order to hinder & deter the work of God!

**POINT #3 – THE DESIRED RESPONSE:**

(v.16)

THEY NEEDED TO REPENT...

- They needed to change their practices!

NO DIFFERENT THAN WHAT WE NEED.

- When we get off course.

COMPROMISE IN THE CHURCH...

- And in our individual lives must continually be rooted out!
- Because we're all prone to get off course.

TURN TO (Num. 11:4).

- We get into dangerous territory when we allow...
- Physical cravings to supersede spiritual principles.

AND dysfunction happens...

- When expectations are misaligned with reality!

(v.17) Jesus says to the churches...

*“He who has an ear to hear let him hear what the spirit says.”*

**~ IN CLOSING ~**

ONE LESSON...

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- Comes down to restraint.
  - (Luke 4:8)
  - (Joshua 24:15)

Think with me on a personal level...

- Where are you compromising in your life tonight?

IS THE SPIRIT OF GOD...

- Speaking to you tonight?

IF SO...

- The thoughts coming into your mind right now...
  - Are exactly what He wants you to get rid of!

~ LET'S PRAY ~