

PART 4 HANDOUT Rev. 2: 12-17: "The Letter to the Church of Pergamos or Pergamum"

VS 12-17 *"To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. 13 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, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives. 14 Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: 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. 15 Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. 16 Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. 17 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.*

The Church of Pergamum was in a Culture Adverse to Christian Testimony. Christ is introduced in a unique way, *"These are the words of Him who has the sharp double-edged sword"* {Word of God}

- The Sword "Separates" those of Grace from those Without Christ.
- This Sword is both an *"Instrument"* of Salvation and the *Instrument* of Eternal Death.

Vs 13: Jesus Gives the Church a Commendation for Holding Fast to the Faith! They're dwelling where Satan has a Stronghold. They did not renounce their faith in Christ, even when Antipas was put to death!

- However, the Evil and Adversity they Faced Outside of the Church...Had Permeated those Inside the Church...Leading it to *"Compromise"* and Eventually to *"Apostasy"*.

Vs 14-15: Christ Rebukes the Church for Compromise! The Church of Pergamum allowed and put up with doctrines that did Not Coincide with God's Word. The Nicolaitans "doctrine": It was Alright to have One foot in Both Worlds and that one Needn't be so Strict about Separation from the World in Order to be a Christian.

- When believers allow sin and compromise to be in their lives, it drains away the power in the work of the Cross & the power of the Spirit that is resident in a believer's life.

Rev. 2:14,15, *" Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: 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. 15 Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans."*

- Balaam could not successfully cause God's people to directly walk away from Him...He Seduced them into Unbridled, Sensual Living by Dangling the Prostitutes of Moab before the Men of Israel.

Numbers 25:1-3 tells us, *"While Israel was staying in Shittim, the men began to indulge in sexual immorality with Moabite women, 2 who invited them to the sacrifices to their gods. The people ate the sacrificial meal and bowed down before these gods. 3 So Israel yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor. And the LORD's anger burned against them."*

Compromise with the World Always Results in a Weakened and Powerless Form of Christianity.

That's why Jesus "hated" the "doctrine & the deeds" of the Nicolaitans.

- Compromise Always Leads to Apostasy! HEBREWS 5 Outlines the Process: **When One Begins to Drift—It Leads to Doubt—Then God's Word Becomes Dull—Then a Person Begins to Despise God's Word and Finally Defies God!** *We Fail to Love or Hate what God Loves and Hates!*

Compromise Receives God's Greatest Warning...To both the Church of Pergamos... And to US Today!

- God said, Be Holy as I am Holy! Be Separate from the World! **Satan seeks to "Blur Our Thinking"** about what God said in His Word...**We Must Guard Ourselves with God's Word.**

Rom 12: *1Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of*

this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

- **When God's Word Fills Our Minds...It Transform Our Hearts!**

When People Stop Heeding "Literal Truth"...They lose Hope of Christ's soon return & "the Church as a Living Organism" becomes a Dead "Church Organization!"

The Alternative to Impurity and Compromise of Truth is Divine Judgment! The Early Stage of "Apostasy" at Pergamum Became the Apostate Church in the 17th Chapter of Rev...*And is Brought into Divine Judgment!*

Sadly, there are Many in American Church's Today that Believe it is OK to Live with One Foot in the World and One Foot with Christ! Happy to Live a Life of Compromise.

- They Want to Go to Church when Convenient— And They Certainly Want to Go to Heaven! But they Still Want to Live in Sin. They Want to do what They Want to Do...
- Some want to party and Believe it is OK to Commit Acts of Immorality. Some Believe it is OK to Lie when necessary, OK to Cheat with it suits them...And Get Revenge when Someone Crosses Them.
- It is the idea of sinning to your heart's content, telling yourself God will understand.

If you think you can Sin to Your Heart's Content Without Repercussions. If you think you can break the commandments of God because You think you're an exception to the rule...You're Deceiving Yourself.

- **I Am Not Talking About Never Sinning...We All Sin!** The Bible says, *"If we say we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us"* (1 John 1:8).
- **Big Difference** between the person who sins, is sorry and doesn't want to keep doing it, and the person who continually, willfully, habitually sins and then says, *"It is okay. God will forgive me."*
- When compromise finds its way into the church, it weakens us. We lose our effectiveness in this world. We lose our effectiveness as individuals as well.

Compromise begins with leaving your first love for Jesus Christ, which leads to compromise, which leads ultimately to immorality, idolatry, and other sins...***The Only Antidote to the Allurements and Temptations of this World is a Passionate Love Relationship with Jesus Christ.***

- Stay close to Jesus, let the fire of the first love burn brightly, and you will be strong. God Will Give You the Power and Resolve To Live a Life that Pleases HIM!
- God Loves You More than You Know...And All He desires is for YOU to Choose to Love Him back!
- He has Given You His Word {TRUTH} to Guard Your Heart and Mind!

Christ said, If You Love Me You will Keep My Commandments! Loving God is Obedience without Compromise!

Vs 17 Gives 3 Promises to Those Who Hear and Choose to be Faithful to Gods Word"

1. Eat the hidden manna...Spiritual Food! {Fellowship with Christ and Spiritual Strength}
2. White Stone...Courts of Law-Represents "acquittal" Righteous before God! Black Stone=Judgment.
3. New Name Written on the Stone...The Recipients "title" to Eternal Joy! {Proof of our acceptance from Christ}

However...To Receive this Promise for Eternity with Christ...We Must Stand Firm On God's Word...Which Gives Us the Power to Faithfully Serve Him and Proclaim Christ to the World!

POINT: ONLY GODS WORD IN YOUR HEART WILL KEEP YOU FROM COMPROMISE!