

CHRIST IN OUR MIDST
Message to Pergamum: Be Strong In Conviction
Revelation 2:12-17
Week 4 August 24, 2025
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When you look out at the world what do you see?

What is it you see when you look across your life?

OUR FAITH MUST BE BASED ON THE WORD OF GOD.

Opinion – What I think about something for the moment.

Belief – What I have thought about and come to believe.

Conviction – What I have studied thoroughly and absolutely put my faith in and would rarely if ever change them.

“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.

Revelation 2:12-17 NIV

Rulers in this world have temporary power. Jesus will be their judge.

We need to put our faith in Jesus the eternal one. We have a hope that His word is true.

JESUS CALLS US TO RESIST THE TEMPTATION TO COMPROMISE

Some have compromised to get along and avoid persecution.
Friendship with the world has been our downfall.

I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I am not asking You to take them out of the world, but to keep them away from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. 18 Just as You sent Me into the world, I also sent them into the world.

John 17:14-18 NAS

We are to be **in** the world and not **of** the world.

You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. James 4:4 NIV

Jesus went where the people lived so He could speak truth into their lives.

As a church we are to live according to the word of God and for that reason that makes us different than the world around us.

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. 14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.” Matthew 7:13-14 NIV

We are challenged to walk the narrow road with Jesus while facing the world.
We cannot be lukewarm.

JESUS CALLS CHRISTIANS TO BOLD AND COURAGEOUS LIVING

The choice will always be between a lie of Satan and the truth of God's word.

TWO PATHS

When you choose the way of the world you will not enjoy eternity with Jesus.

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. Revelation 2:17 NIV

‘Manna’ was the bread that feed the Israelites in the desert for 40 years.
To gain entrance into an event you would be given a white stone.

To receive eternal life we must turn away from the way of the world and embrace the way of Jesus.