

7 Churches of Revelation

Pergamum - The Compromising Church

Revelation 2:12-17

Connect or Compromise - the constant question that faces the Church

How can we connect with the world but not compromise the truth?

Jesus said that His disciples should be in not of the world - **John 17**

Paul warned us not to be conformed to the world - **Romans 12:2**

What can we change - methods, styles,

What we cannot change - message of salvation

Intro to Pergamum (100 Km north of Smyrna)

Name means "married"

Provincial capital of Roman Asia - Satan's Throne

Governor had "right of the sword" - life or death

Filled with Temples and Altars - gods, goddesses and Emperor

Theater for 10,000 people, libraries - wealth

Equated to 300-600 in church history

I. Christ - The One who has the sharp two-edged sword 12

Christ pictured as one with sword - judgment and rule

He has authority not the governor

II. Commendation You hold fast my Name 13

You dwell in a hard place - Satan's dwelling and throne

Place of counterfeit religions

You are faithful (hold on) to Christ's Name

You do not deny Christ even in the face of death

Antipas - Bishop martyred for being faithful

III. Complaint - 14-15

You have some who hold the teachings of Balaam

Balaam - name means "Lord of the people"

Prophet hired to curse Israel - **Numbers 22-25**

Gave King Balak advice - if you cannot defeat them -join them

Do not destroy but deceive - mix with them and mix religions

Nicolaitans - those who worshiped God but lived like the world

Ate meat offered to idols - at temple feasts

Commit acts of immorality - with temple prostitutes

James 4:4 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.

IV. Counsel Repent or I will come with the sword 16

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Repent - to turn back from sin and make Christ Lord again

The Word of God - the sword of the Spirit - cuts to the heart

V. Compensation - Hidden Manna and White stone with new name 17

Hidden Manna - Manna was the provision of God in the wilderness

40 years God fed them - Jesus fed the multitudes

Some hidden in the Ark of the Covenant as remembrance

Jesus is the Bread of Life - **John 6:32 - 35**

White Stone - Two explanations but both fit

In court case the voting was by putting a stone in the clay jar

Black meant guilty and white meant not guilty

Invitations to great events were engraved on a piece of stone

Name - known only to the person - number / pin

Name - also meant character - all is new **2 Corinthians 5:17**

VI. Crux

1. The world always wants to destroy or deceive us

They want us to compromise our faith

They seek to call good evil

2. The world offers counterfeits Christ is the real thing

Zeus - King of Kings

Christ is the King of Kings

Dionysus - born of Zeus and a woman

Christ is the Son of God

- promised life after death

gives eternal life

- made water into wine

gives abundant life

- offered pleasure

Demeter - offered bread

Christ is the Bread of Life

- washed in blood

we are washed in Him

Athena - offered wisdom

Christ - fullness of wisdom

3. If we compromise our faith we lose all

- **The Joy of Christ in us**

- **The satisfaction of all our needs**

- **The peace of Christ**

What to do!

Repent - turn from the world and to Christ

Hold on to your faith as a bride awaiting the marriage.