

“Pergamum: Weakened by Compromise”
Revelation 2:12-17

Revelation #6

The risen and exalted Christ ministers to His church at Pergamum.

1. Jesus’ Commendation

vv. 12-13

(1) How Jesus Presents Himself *“These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword.”*

- **Significance:** Directly related to Jesus’ admonition and His call to repentance (vv. 14-16)
- **Meaning:** Jesus’ words are all-powerful. By His mere utterance His enemies are crushed!
- cf. 1:16; 19:15, 21

(2) Jesus Knows all about this church!

*“I know your works,
and where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is
...where Satan dwells.”*

- 1- **A church situated in a very pagan and hostile environment!**
- “Where Satan’s throne is” – A seat of satanic power.
- 2- **A church standing fast amidst persecution!** *“And you hold fast to My name,
and did not deny My faith even in the days
in which Antipas was my faithful martyr.”*
 - They presently hold fast
 - They had held fast in a season of severe persecution!
 - Antipas: “my faithful witness” ESV Jesus ascribes to Antipas His own title.

2. Jesus’ Admonition

vv. 14-16

(1) The Church’s Compromise Identified *“But I have a few things against you...”*

- 1- **“you have there those who hold to the doctrine of Balaam”**
- cf. Num. 25:1-9; 31:15f.
- Balaam showed Balak how to lead the Israelites into sin in two ways: idolatry and fornication
- The early Gnostics taught and practiced licentiousness as a principle since they were not under law, but under grace (Ro 6:15).
- 2- **“you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate”**
Also taught a kind of libertarianism; justifying loose living in the name of “grace.”

(2) The Remedy

“Repent...”

- 1- **Repent!** “Repent at once”
- 2- **The fruit of such repentance: Taking action to rid the church of such teachers!**

(3) The Warning

*“or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them
with the sword of My mouth.”*

- If the church will not discipline these, putting them out (covenantal death),
Jesus will discipline them with actual death.
- cf. 1 Cor. 11:27-32

3. Jesus’ Promise

v. 17

(1) The Call to Hear *“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”*

- The admonition is to be received by all

(2) The Promise *“To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat.*

*And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written
which no one knows except him who receives it.”*

-1- The Condition: *“To him who overcomes...”*

- Characteristic of all true saints
- Descriptive of the character of the Christian life

-2- The Reward: Fellowship with the Living Christ

Hidden manna! *“I will give some of the hidden manna to eat.”*

- Jesus is the true bread from heaven.
Those faithful to Him intimately partake of His very life.

A Hidden name!

*“And I will give him a white stone,
and on the stone a new name written
which no one knows except him who receives it.”*

- “a white stone”
 - Used to register one’s vote in a court – to acquit (white) or condemn (black).
 - Used for admittance to civic events.
- “on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it”
 - Jesus gives a new name to His faithful one.
 - The name is known only to Jesus and to the recipient.