

Midweek Bible Study

Exposition of Revelation

Letter to the Church at Pergamum: Hold Fast to My Name

Rev. 2:12-17

I. Address and Christ's Self-Revelation (2:12)

- A. Pergamum
- B. The One who has the sharp two-edged sword
Cf. 1:16
 - 1. A comfort – for those living in a pagan culture
 - 2. A threat – for those unfaithful to His Word (2:16)

II. Commendations/Affirmations (2:13)

- A. I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is
 - 1. The Satanic nature of Pergamum is emphasized (cf 2:13)
 - 2. Satan's throne –
- B. You hold fast My name and did not deny My faith
 - 1. Hold fast my name
 - 2. Did not deny My faith (faith in Me)
Matt. 10:32-33
 - 2.1 Even in the days of Antipas

III. Criticisms/Corrections (2:14-15)

- A. But I have a few things against you
- B. Because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam
 - 1. Who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel
Balaam – Num 22:5-25:3, 9; 31:8, 16
(2 Pet. 2:14-16; Jude 5-12)
 - 2. To eat things sacrificed to idols
 - 3. And to commit immorality
 - 4. Stumbling block – “Stumbling here isn't a mild misstep, it refers to losing one's final reward by falling away from the gospel of Jesus Christ.” Schreiner
 - 5. Following the false teachers was participation in paganism –



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So you also have some who in the same way hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans

IV. Call to Repentance and Threat (2:16)

- A. Therefore repent
- B. Or else I am coming to you quickly
- C. And I will make war against them with the sword of my mouth

V. Call to Hear and Promise to the Overcomers (2:17)

- A. He who has an ear hear what the Spirit says to the churches
- B. To him who overcomes
 - 1. To him I will give some of the hidden manna
 - 2. I will give him a white stone
 - 3. And a new name written on the stone, which no one knows but he who receives it
Rev. 3:12; 22:3-4; Isa. 62:2; 65:15

Conclusion

- 1. Faithful despite intense persecution.
- 2. But the church is also compromised.

Application

"hold fast"



New American Standard Bible: 1995 Update 24 results in 24 verses



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[Deut 11:22](#) “For if you are careful to keep all this commandment which I am commanding you to do, to love the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and [hold fast](#) to Him,

[Deut 30:20](#) by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice, and by [holding fast](#) to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”

[Josh 22:5](#) “Only be very careful to observe the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, to love the LORD your God and walk in all His ways and keep His commandments and [hold fast](#) to Him and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul.”

[Job 2:3](#) The LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man fearing God and turning away from evil. And he still [holds fast](#) his integrity, although you incited Me against him to ruin him without cause.”

[Job 2:9](#) Then his wife said to him, “Do you still [hold fast](#) your integrity? Curse God and die!”

[Job 8:15](#) “He trusts in his house, but it does not stand; He [holds fast](#) to it, but it does not endure.

[Job 27:6](#) “I [hold fast](#) my righteousness and will not let it go. My heart does not reproach any of my days.

[Ps 64:5](#) They [hold fast](#) to themselves an evil purpose; They talk of laying snares secretly; They say, “Who can see them?”

[Prov 4:4](#) Then he taught me and said to me, “Let your heart [hold fast](#) my words; Keep my commandments and live;

[Isa 56:4](#) For thus says the LORD, “To the eunuchs who keep My sabbaths, And choose what pleases Me, And [hold fast](#) My covenant,

[Isa 56:6](#) “Also the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, To minister to Him, and to love the name of the LORD, To be His servants, every one who keeps from profaning the sabbath And [holds fast](#) My covenant;



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[Jer 8:5](#)

“Why then has this people, Jerusalem, Turned away in continual apostasy? They [hold fast](#) to deceit, They refuse to return.

[1 Cor 15:2](#)

by which also you are saved, if you [hold fast](#) the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

[Phil 2:16](#)

[holding fast](#) the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.

[Col 2:19](#)

and not [holding fast](#) to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God.

[1 Thess 5:21](#)

But examine everything *carefully*; [hold fast](#) to that which is good;

[Titus 1:9](#)

[holding fast](#) the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

[Heb 3:6](#)

but Christ *was faithful* as a Son over His house—whose house we are, if we [hold fast](#) our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end.

[Heb 3:14](#)

For we have become partakers of Christ, if we [hold fast](#) the beginning of our assurance firm until the end,

[Heb 4:14](#)

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us [hold fast](#) our confession.

[Heb 10:23](#)

Let us [hold fast](#) the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;

[Rev 2:13](#)

‘I know where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is; and you [hold fast](#) My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

[Rev 2:25](#)

‘Nevertheless what you have, [hold fast](#) until I come.

[Rev 3:11](#)

‘I am coming quickly; [hold fast](#) what you have, so that no one will take your crown.

