

Study 5: Revelation 2:12-17

PERGAMOS

A. The Characteristics of the City: The secular state

Pergamos (Pergamum) was:

1. The capital of, and most famous city (historically) in Asia Minor
2. The Centre of literature – famous for its library of over 200,000 books.
3. Satan’s seat or ‘throne’ was here (verse 13) because :
 - a. It was the centre of the worship of Asclepius (the god of healing)
The emblem of this god was a snake –the symbol of Satan.
 - b. The site of a conical hill, 1,000 feet high dedicated to heathen worship
– which smoked all day with the smoke of sacrifice. Looked like Satan’s seat.
 - c. It was also the centre of emperor worship.

B. The Condition of the Church: The spiritual state

1. The DESCRIPTION of the Speaker

1:16; 2:12 – “*the sharp two-edged sword...*”

2:16 – “*...the sword of My mouth.*”

The Roman governor lived here, the man with the ‘Power of the Sword’.

2. The REVELATION

2:13

> “*I know...*” used tenderly. 2:13 “*I know where you live...*”

3. The COMMENDATION

2:13

> True to Christ’s Name – loyalty to the Person of Christ

> True to the faith – confidence in the Work of Christ

4. The CONDEMNATION

2:14-15. The danger of seduction.

Balaamites and Nicolaitans were probably the same people – taught compromise and toleration towards idolatry and immorality.

5. The CAUTION

2:16

> Repent, or else Christ will go to war against them!

6. The EXPECTATION of reward for the 'Overcomer'

2:17

To him will I give:

> the hidden manna – divinely supplied: humanly gathered.

> a white stone – acquittal, holiness, purity, and permanence.

> a new name – name means character. A new man, a new woman, in Christ Jesus. Secret and real fellowship with Christ.

A personal invitation to the marriage supper of the Lamb!
