

To the Church in Pergamum—Revelation 2:12–17

Open It

1. What do you consider to be the most evil or sinful place on earth? Why?

Revelation 2:12–17 (ESV)

¹²“And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: ‘The words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword.

¹³“ ‘I know where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

¹⁴But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality.

¹⁵So also you have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

¹⁶Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth.

¹⁷He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.’

Explore It

2. Who was addressing John? (2:12)
3. Where was the church of Pergamum said to be located? (2:13)
4. What good deeds had the church at Pergamum done? (2:13)
5. For what did Jesus praise the people of the church at Pergamum? (2:13)
6. How did Balaam (of Old Testament times) influence the believers at Pergamum? (2:14)
7. What were the believers at Pergamum doing wrong? (2:14–15)
8. What command did Christ give to this church in light of its dangerous direction? (2:16)
9. What stern warning was issued for those who would not obey Christ? (2:17)
10. What did Jesus promise to “him who overcomes”? (2:17)

Get It

11. What does it mean that Christ has a “sharp, double-edged sword”?
12. In what ways could it be said that Satan lives in your city?
13. How does sin in others affect us?
14. What is the best way to deal with Christians (whether real or false) who circulate unbiblical ideas?
15. How can we resist the influence of the world around us?

Apply It

16. In what way can you include repentance in your daily devotions this week?