

The Church in Pergamum

Revelation 2:12-17

📖 Revelation 2:12–17 (NIV84) “To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of Him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. ¹³ I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives. ¹⁴ Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality. ¹⁵ Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. ¹⁶ Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. ¹⁷ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it.”

The incision of Christ.

📖 Revelation 2:12 (NIV84) “To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of Him who has the sharp, double-edged sword.”

📖 Hebrews 4:12-13 (NIV) “For the word of God is living 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. ¹³ Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”

The insight of Christ.

📖 Revelation 2:13a (NIV84) “I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name.”

📖 Revelation 2:13b (NIV84) You did not renounce your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.”

The intolerance of Christ.

📖 Revelation 2:14–16 (NIV84) “Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality. ¹⁵ Likewise you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. ¹⁶ Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.”

1. They tolerated people who held to the teaching of Balaam:
2. They tolerated people who held to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

The incentive of Christ.

📖 Revelation 2:17 (NIV84) “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it.”

Digging Deeper: How has the Word of God penetrated your life? In what ways does Jesus see you as a “faithful witness”? This world encourages tolerance and acceptance—if you disagree with the majority, you will be labeled ignorant and outdated. How do you want to be labeled? Read Galatians 1:10 before you answer that.

