

LETTERS TO THE CHURCH

Part 4 - Pergamos



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Rev. 2:12 And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;

Rev. 2:13 I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

- Jesus begins His letter to this pastor by saying that He sees the church's works being done in less than ideal surroundings. Our perseverance through tough times is meaningful to Christ. *James 1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.*
- This church was amid the greatest idol worship of any of the churches. The altar of Zeus was in Pergamum and this was the devil's most coveted place for sacrifices and governments sought out this place to get divine power. *1 Cor. 10:20 But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.*
- The Pergamos church was holding fast to their faith and the name of Jesus (His authority) in spite of witnessing the slaying of one of their leaders, Antipas. He stood against idolatry and was executed for it. Christ commends them for remaining steadfast through tribulations. *Matt. 10:22 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.*



SEAT OF SATAN - ALTAR OF ZEUS



Rev. 2:14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

Rev. 2:15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

- Christ has a problem with Balaam's doctrine that was being practiced among the church. He addresses three components of this false teaching. First, stumblingblocks were being cast among the people. They were not withstanding those that brought in damnable heresies that weakened the faith of believers and encouraged them to take hold of things that were harmful to them. *2Pet. 2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.*
- They ate at the table with false gods and condoned false god worship. Baalam's practices would be equivalent to modern-day pastors pledging to false gods of Freemasonry, Boulé, and Greek fraternities and sororities. The Bible affirms that you cannot eat at the table of God and of false gods/ mythological demons. *1Cor. 10:21 Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.*
- Spiritual fornication is the mixture of false god doctrine with the doctrine of God. When people mix the sacred and profane, they are committing fornication. Pastors that promote the world, its leaders, and the lust of the world, are spiritual fornicators. *Ezek. 22:26 Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them.*



Rev. 2:16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

- In Pergamum, capital punishment was done by running on the sword. Christ used this symbolism as a threat to those that would not repent. He also calls those that refuse to repent, “them” which separates them from those that belong to Him. *Matt. 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*
- Arrogance is one of many problems created by the doctrine of Balaam and the Nicolaitans. People that mix the sacred and profane, usually recognize that they are sinners, but they refuse to change. When Christ said I will fight against them, He means that He would raise up those that will challenge them with the Word. *Matt. 7:22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?*
- Regardless of the prevalence of idol worship surrounding the church at Pergamos, Christ did not allow them to partake in it at all. The sword was not just to cut people, but it was also used to forge a line of demarcation. *1 Pet. 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?*



sum·ma·ry

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The church at Pergamum was strategically planted near the altar of Zeus to stand against the false god worship of that time. Today, we are faced with the same scenario in our country. Our churches should be standing against the seat of Satan and all false god worship. But, the doctrine of Balaam and the Nicolaitans is just as widespread in our day, as it was in Pergamum. Nowadays, pastors are pledgers of secret societies, fraternities, sororities, and even subscribing to racial cult movements. All of this is false god worship and it is leading God's people astray. When Barack Obama recreated the seat of Satan to run for office from within it, the church sang his praises! The church even encourages members today to vote for political candidates that promote antichrist policies. This acceptance shows you how far the American church has fallen. Pastors, their wives, and their children are pledging Greek and becoming Freemasons to honor the very false gods of Greece and Rome that the church at Pergamos fought against. They are pledging their allegiance to God and demons, which is spiritual fornication!

The warning signs are here and Christ is using the sword to cut away those that will not repent and denounce their allegiance to false gods. With the sword of His mouth, He is cutting them away so that He can fight against them with the Word. Jesus is very calculated in His approach, in order to fight them, He must first sever them from the body, so they will be exposed for what they are doing. We will see them fall away more and more, as the end approaches. Though they may seem to be standing in position, God has cut them loose and they belong to the other side. Take heed and be not deceived. The fruit will always tell you who belongs to Christ and who has been cut away from Him.

Rev. 2:17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.
