

Dear Pergamum:

The Compromising Church

Revelation 2:12-17

November 10, 2024



Prayer: Begin with a prayer focusing on wisdom and understanding as you study God's Word together.

Read: Revelation 2:12-17

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the "greatest" city you have either lived in or visited and why would you consider it a great city?
2. Pergamum had many great pagan temples within its borders. These temples were used to worship false gods. What might we have built in modern times that are actually more like temples (physical or metaphorical) that compete with our worship to God, even if they don't look like 1st century temples?
3. How susceptible do you think modern day Christians are to "hero worship"? How can we best guard against this?
4. In verse 12, Jesus uses the imagery of a two-edged sword. Why should this imagery affect both the believer and the unbeliever? How might this challenge us as believers to live out our faith?
5. If Jesus were to write us a letter today and describe our current world as "where Satan's throne is," similar to how He addressed Pergamum, what aspects of our society might future generations look back on and identify as representing "Satan's throne"?
6. Jesus' rebuke of some believers in Pergamum tells us they had begun to teach compromise with the world. What are some areas where you see the Church as vulnerable to compromise today?
7. Since we are called as disciples to be "hagios" which is the Greek word for separate and different, what does separate and different look like in our everyday lives?

Reflect: Is there an area of your life where you may have compromised with the world and need to be separate or different from the world instead?

8. Jesus tells Pergamum that He will use the "sword of His mouth" to do battle if they do not repent. How should His call to repentance challenge us to examine our own lives and the teachings we follow?

Jesus offers the "hidden manna" and the "white stone & new name" to those who conquer:

9. The "hidden manna" represents sustenance and complete satisfaction. What is something you are most excited to receive when you get to heaven?
10. When it comes to sin do you think of yourself as guilty or innocent? Do you consider yourself the victor or just an "also ran"? If you wear His name why wouldn't you claim the prize offered?