

VI. THE WARNING TO PERGAMUM (Revelation 2:16)

Jesus threatens to come against them “soon” and “war against them with the sword of My mouth.”

Gist: Do not fear the Pergamums putting you to death by the sword, as they did our beloved brother, Antipas. Rather, fear Jesus Christ who has the power to judge and destroy...in Hell!

Jesus will have what He wants—a holy people for God—or He will destroy them in Hell.



VII. THE PROMISE TO PERGAMUM (Revelation 2:17)

Jesus promises His faithful, Biblical and holy followers two mysterious gifts:

Hidden Manna: No food sacrificed to idols but the “bread of angels” - manna.

A white stone: The tessera was a white stone that served as a token or ticket into the Royal Governor’s banquet—an ancient dinner invitation from the Emperor.

They shall enter the joyful presence of the marriage feast of Lamb!

CONCLUSION: Here is a call to be faithful to two callings:

The calling to truth and the calling to Holiness.

This is a call to fight against *worldliness* and to pursue godliness.

Sermon Notes

January 22, 2012 PM
Mike Ross
“The Worldly Church”
Revelation 2:12-17

This is the calling to Pergamum and to us:

To press on to know the Lord more fully...in truth
and in holiness, without worldly compromise.

INTRODUCTION: Our greatest danger, both as Christians and as churches, is never persecution...

Persecution actually *helps* the church. It causes her to grow numerically, in sanctification, and in depth of character.

Our greatest enemy is *Worldliness*: becoming like the world.

We are **not** the first age or the first church to face such challenges. This tug of war between church and world, Christ and culture, faith and secularism has *always* been present.

One of the seven churches of Revelation was losing its battle against the spirit of the age—the spirit of Rome—and it had become worldly. That church was **Pergamum**.

I. THE CHURCH OF PERGAMUM (Revelation 2:12)

Pergamum's fame lay in three directions:

First: *Pergamum was the home of one of the great and famous libraries of antiquity.*

Second: *Pergamum was a center for Greek Religion.*

Third: *Pergamum was a center of Caesar worship.*

Here were the three strands of a godless, Christless and man-centered society: education, medicine, political power.

All three held in sacred value.

Into this home and temple-center of Satan, the Holy Spirit planted a local Christian church. A church under much pressure to conform to the culture.

II. THE CHRIST OF PERGAMUM (Revelation 2:12)

Jesus Christ who speaks the **Word of God** to His Church because He is the Word made flesh.

The world says, "*Don't be judgmental. Be tolerant.*"

Jesus says, "*Speak the Word that will judge human hearts.*"

The truth of God's Word *divides* mankind—

The elect from the reprobate.

III. THE COMMENDATION OF PERGAMUM (Revelation 2:13)

Jesus commends the Pergamum saints for two things: In the face of persecution, threats, and harassment, they...

Did not deny *Jesus' Name* (the Savior and Lord)

Did not deny *The Faith* (the Apostolic Kerugma)

But they did **compromise** in order to escape pressure.

IV. THE CONDEMNATION OF PERGAMUM (Revelation 2:14—15)

Jesus faults these Pergamum believers for three things: *mixed worship, sexual immorality, the Nicolaitan heresy.*

Gist: The pastors of Pergamum allowed some public participation in pagan festivals and Caesar worship just to keep the neighbors happy.

They also allowed sexual immorality to go both unaddressed and undisciplined.

We face the same pressures today—the push to tolerate, accommodate, and promote pagan ideas:

V. THE EXORTATION OF PERGAMUM (Revelation 2:16)

The instruction is curt, blunt, and tactless: "*Therefore, repent.*"

Stop it! No more participation in pagan ceremonies, no more incense burned to Caesar, no more confusion that "Caesar is Lord" at the altar of Pergamum, no more sex outside a monogamous marriage, no more Nicolaitans teaching in the church.

Be holy. Be different. Be courageous.