

# THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION

## THE CHURCH OF PERGAMOS

### REVELATION 2:12-17

By: Dr. Gary G. Dull

INTRO: For those who have been around FBC very long you will have heard it taught that **the Christian, who honors the Lord, will be living a life that is separated from the world.** Without a doubt most of you realize that SEPARATION FROM THE WORLD is not only an important concept, but it is the will of God. And yet, many Christians practice little separation from the world, and in fact MANY CHRISTIANS ARE VERY WORLDLY. Worldliness has been an issue within the church from the very beginning of the church age. So, it has been a constant struggle for Christians of every age. One of the seven churches of Revelation, PERGAMOS, had a major problem with COMPROMISING WITH THE WORLD and because such was the case, the Lord Jesus gave them quite a rebuke.

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**PURPOSE OF THE STUDY:** To show that Christ wants His church to be set apart unto Him, and when compromise with the world occurs He is not pleased and calls for repentance. **THE CHURCH MUST LEARN TO AVOID WORLDLY COMPROMISE!**

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#### I. THE CHURCH OF PERGAMOS VS. 12

A. The Name – Pergamos means “MARRIED.” This name actually has two applications.

1. It is a reminder that each local church is “married to Christ”, and must be kept spiritually pure. 2 Cor. 11:1-4

2. It is an indication of what was taking place at Pergamos, that is that it was married to the world through compromise.

B. The City – Pergamos was called “THE GREATEST CITY IN ASIA MINOR. It also had some other heathenistic conditions.

1. It had the first temple to Caesar in the Roman Empire which made it the center of an “Imperial Cult.”

2. It had a temple dedicated to “AESCULAPIUS,” the “god of healing.”

ILLUSTRATION: A reminder of Riobamba, Ecuador

#### II. THE CONDUCT OF THE CHURCH OF PERGAMOS VS.13

**-Every day the Christians at Pergamos faced the wickedness of the occult! But in the midst of that...**

A. They did not forsake the name of Christ in place of Caesar.

B. They did not deny the Christian faith.

NOTE: Their conduct was so very important because great pressure was on them to replace Christ with Caesar. With the Temple to Caesar there, things were even worse. **BUT THEY STOOD FAST IN CONDUCT.**

ILLUSTRATION:

### III. THE CONDITION OF THE CHURCH OF PERGAMOS VS. 13

A. They had faced persecution, just like the church at Smyrna. One of their own, Antipas, was martyred for his faith.

B. They faced “Satan’s Seat.”

1. Satan had a “stronghold” on Pergamos.

2. “Satan’s Seat” may refer to the two pagan temples that were there, being the temple of Caesar and the temple of AESCULPIUS.

**IN THE FACE OF PERSECUTION, THEY WERE COURAGEOUS!**

ILLUSTRATION: Satan does his grip on certain places – Riobamba, Ecuador

### IV. THE CONCERN FOR THE CHURCH OF PERGAMOS VSS. 14,15

**The Lord Jesus was very concerned with their COMPROMISE with the world!**

NOTE: Satan could not destroy the Christians at Pergamos as a “ROARING LION,” (1 Peter 5:8). But he was making inroads as a “DECEIVING SERPENT,” slivering in among true believers. As a result of Satan’s influence they allowed TWO GODLESS PRACTICES to continue.

A. The Doctrine of Balaam – OT teaching of IMMORALITY.

-Numbers 22-25

B. The Doctrine of the Nicolaitians – NT teaching of IMMORALITY.

OBSERVATION: It is interesting to note that the words “NICOLAITANS” and “BALAAM” mean the very same thing.

1) NICOLAITANS – Greek for “TO RULE THE PEOPLE.”

2) BALAAM – Hebrew for “TO LORD OVER THE PEOPLE.”

THE PROBLEM: Those who professed to be believers were lifted up in pride and attempted to LORD IT OVER THE people and lead them into immorality.

THE WARNING:

1) Satan is the FOUNDATION of all compromise.

2) Satan understands the way the flesh works and leads us to compromise.

3) Satan has his minions who work to LEAD GODLY PEOPLE INTO COMPROMISE – 2 Cor. 11:13-15

4) Satan’s minions are planted right in our midst – Jude 3

THE CONSIDERATION: Satan has worked to infiltrate the church with NICOLAITANS AND BALAAM’S ever since. They are those who profess to know Christ, but they are of the world and are leading others into worldly compromise through: a) Music, b) Dress c) Doctrine, d) Literature, e) Worship, f) Opinion, g) Worldly thought, h) Methods, i) Translations.

ILLUSTRATION:

### V. THE CALL TO THE CHURCH OF PERGAMOS VSS. 16,17

**REPENT OR ELSE!**

A. Repenting from worldly compromise would bring God’s blessing, but refusal to do so would bring judgment.

B. Rejoice over those who overcome through true salvation.

ILLUSTRATION:

LESSONS: