

Pergamum, the Compromised Church

Revelation 2:12-17



The church at Pergamum can be compared to the church today in the midst of the pressures of the secular world, though we have nothing in the Western world comparable to the imperial cult (Satan's throne), with its rejection and persecution of all things Christian... We do, however have a secular society that places a great deal of pressure on Christians to compromise and conform (cf. 1 Pet. 4:3-4), and a syncretism similar to that faced by the Christians in Pergamum is taking over Christianity with its rampant materialism [and feel-good Christianity] ... Therefore,

like Pergamum, most of us live in Satan's realm and face great pressure to weaken our faith and our walk with Christ... We need to "repent" and develop "overcomers" as much as the church of Pergamum did. Osborne

1 Peter 4:3-4 *3 For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. 4 They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you.*

- I. The primary weapon we've been given to fight godlessness and its insidious ever-present attack on the church is God's truth. Like a two-edged sword used in battle, it's a formidable weapon that penetrates even to dividing soul, and spirit, joints, and marrow; it judges the attitudes of the heart. In other words, it puts to death all opposition to knowing and living the truth of God's Word. Therefore, Jesus was letting Pergamum know that nothing is hidden from His sight and that He would hold them accountable for what He sees good or bad. Without God's truth and strict adherence to it, the church is doomed to compromise and judgment.

Rev. 2:12

Heb. 4:12-13

2 Cor. 11:14 *And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.*

- II. Jesus never offers us an excuse for our sin. We can't blame it on our sin nature, temptation, environment, upbringing, overwhelming desires, or anything else to justify sinning against God (Rom. 6:1; James 1:13-15), to do so is an affront to His holiness. The church of Pergamum did well in their fight against the outside forces of evil that were threatening its stand on truth, yet they failed to fight that battle well within the church. Maybe they didn't like confrontation, or perhaps they figured that to say something would not be the loving thing to do. Whatever the case might have been, their failure to adamantly confront the evil that had penetrated the church made it a worldly and an unsafe place to be for believers to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Rev. 2:13-16

2 Cor. 4:4

Numbers 25:1-3

Numbers 31:16

Col. 3:1-4

James 4:4 *You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*

- III. We have been given ears to hear because of our salvation, which means that there is never any excuse not to hear what the Spirit is saying to us through circumstances, the Word, the body of Christ or the conscience. He has made us overcomers, which means we have overcome the ways of world, if we so choose. Those of the world, the godless unsaved, will never partake of the hidden manna and they certainly won't be honored with a new name, so why let them have their way in our hearts and minds.

Rev. 2:17

John 6:40-41

"The hidden manna represents Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life who came down from heaven (John 6:48-51). He provides spiritual sustenance for those who put their faith in Him. The hidden manna symbolizes all the blessings and benefits of knowing Christ." MacArthur

Eph. 1:3 *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.*