

SERIES: #WHAT DOES GOD THINK ABOUT OUR CHURCH?
THE SEVEN LETTERS OF REVELATION
PART 3: PERGAMUM: THE COMPROMISING CHURCH
REVELATION 2:12-17
WBC SERMON NOTES 27/10/2019

INTRODUCTION: As Jesus walks among us, what does He find? What will he say about our church, and our people?

We have already seen:

- **Ephesus, the careless church**: Christians who had lost their first love for Christ.

- **Smyrna, the Christ-centered church**: Christians fully committed to Christ. Christ-centeredness will affect our, &

- **Today we look at Pergamum, the compromising church.**

Reading: Revelation 2:12-17

Compromise

Christ calls us to attention: v17

1. Commendation (v13)

Jesus takes note of two things:

FIRST: their C.....: “where Satan’s throne is” (v13)

Religion was big business.

This was Satan’s HQ!

Satan is alive and well: he is.....(ruler) of this world (Jn 12:31, 14:30, 16:11); a(1 Pet. 5:8); the of this age. (2 Cor 4:4)

In Pergamum:

* The temples of Athena, Dionysius (Bacchus) and an altar to Zeus

* Temple to the god Asclepius – the god of

Despite all the temptations, this church remained true to the name of Christ.

SECOND: their C.....:

they remained faithful in their defense of the deity of Christ.

Historically: Athanasius fought the A..... heresy that denied the deity of Christ and said Jesus was only a man.

Augustine fought the P..... heresy which denied original sin, the corruption of the human nature, & irresistible grace

Antipas, the faith martyr, who refused to call Caesar “Lord”.

2. Compromise

Although the church had remained faithful to Christ in their doctrine (beliefs) they had compromised in their living:

FIRST: The PRACTISES of B..... (v14) (see Numbers 22-25)

Balaam desired fame and money & lead God’s people into immorality.

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"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

-- Matthew 6:24

SECOND: The PRACTISES of the N..... (v15)

They reasoned that since flesh is evil and the spirit is good, one could live as you please. An immoral lifestyle was OK.

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"What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have DIED to sin; how can we LIVE in it any longer?"

-- Romans 6:1-2

3. Confrontation (v14-16)

One word:

Change the of your life!!

If you are living in sin -

Jesus addresses each one of us! (v17)

"Whoever / anyone who has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

If you have COMPROMISED, what is Jesus message to you now?

1. **Become an! (v17b)**

“To the one who I will give you the hidden manna”

Who is the overcomer? 1 John 5:4 ~of

2. **Allow the to penetrate your heart & mind (v16,12)**

A warning: beware Christ's judgement.

Heb. 12:4

3. **Trust in Christ's “.....” (v17c)**

“I will give some of the hidden manna”

- Christ's power to overcome.

Hidden because it is only available to the

John 6:35 – “I am the bread of life”

Matthew 4:4 – “man shall not live on bread alone”

4. **Focus on the of God (v17d)**

“I will give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.”

The white stone: an acquittal & an invitation

The new name: a new person

The amazing story of an overcomer