



THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

**Bereans Adult Bible Fellowship
Placerita Baptist Church**

Place in the Book of Revelation

- I.** What you have seen (Rev 1).
- II.** What is now (Rev 2–3)—the seven churches of Asia Minor.
 - A.** Ephesus (2:1–7)
 - B.** Smyrna (2:8–11)



C. Pergamum (2:12–17)

- **The city of authority.**
- **A royal city.**
- **Administrative capital of its province.**
- **Chief seat of the state religion.**
- **City filled with idols, shrines, and temples.**
- **Parchment first manufactured here.**
- **Large library—2nd only to Alexandria's.**

The Acropolis at Pergamum



Emperor Trajan's Temple





Aesclepium

Revelation 2:12–17

- 12 “And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: The One who has the sharp two-edged sword says this:
- 13 ‘I know where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is; and you hold fast My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

Revelation 2:12–17

- 14 ‘But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit *acts of immorality*.
- 15 ‘So you also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

Revelation 2:12–17

16 ‘Therefore repent; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth.

Revelation 2:12–17

17 ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give *some* of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.’

C. Pergamum (2:12–17)

1. Characterization of Christ (v. 12)

- He wields the two-edged sword—symbolic of the authoritative Word of God.**

Revelation 1:16 and 2:16

- “In His right hand He held seven stars, and **out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword**; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.”
- “Therefore repent; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them **with the sword of My mouth.**”

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any **two-edged sword**, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

C. Pergamum (2:12–17)

2. Commendation from Christ (v. 13)

- He commends the church at Pergamum for its works in spite of its idol-filled environment.**
- He commends the church at Pergamum for remaining faithful even when Antipas was martyred in the city.**

C. Pergamum (2:12–17)

3. Complaint by Christ (vv. 14–15)

- He complains that the church at Pergamum tolerates the false teaching of a sect of Balaam, that results in immorality.**

2 Peter 2:15

forsaking the right way, they have gone astray, having followed **the way of Balaam, the son of Beor**, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

Jude 11

Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have rushed headlong into **the error of Balaam**, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

C. Pergamum (2:12–17)

3. Complaint by Christ (vv. 14–15)

- He complains that the church at Pergamum tolerates the false teaching of a sect of Balaam, results in immorality.**
- He complains that the church at Pergamum tolerates the Nicolaitans (see 2:6).**

C. Pergamum (2:12–17)

4. Counsel from Christ (v. 16a)

- He counsels the church at Pergamum to repent.**

C. Pergamum (2:12–17)

5. Caution by Christ (v. 16b)

- He warns the church at Pergamum that they are in danger of judgment.**

Revelation 19

15 From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.

21 And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.

C. Pergamum (2:12–17)

6. Commitment of Christ (vv. 17)

- The overcomers at Pergamum will partake of the hidden manna.**
- The overcomers at Pergamum will receive a white stone with a new name written on it.**

C. Pergamum (2:12–17)

7. Practical Implications

- Churches need to beware of incomplete resistance to Satan and his servants.**
- Believers need to season steadfast ministry with doctrinal discernment.**

C. Pergamum (2:12–17)

Questions for Discussion

- a) What Satanic elements characterize the environment in which _____ seeks to serve Christ?
- b) What areas of false teaching might _____ encounter that could infect the church?

Implications Regarding Jesus Christ

- He judges by His Word.
- He knows His church's works and faithfulness.
- He knows His church's inconsistencies.
- He knows the impact of Satan on His church.
- He calls for repentance.
- He rewards faithful believers.