

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

chapter 2:12-17

Lesson 4

The church of Pergamos has been labeled as the compromising church. The city was called "the greatest city in Asia Minor". Pergamos had the first temple dedicated to Caesar. It also had a temple dedicated to Aesculapius, the god of healing, whose insignia was the entwined serpent on the staff. This is still a medical symbol today. The church was known for its faithfulness, yet at the same time, its acceptance of doctrines that repulsed Jesus. He saw them all. May this study increase your understanding of the faithfulness Jesus desires from you.

OBSERVATION: Read Revelation 2:12-17

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *Jesus* and the *Holy Spirit*.
Key Words: *Jesus* (note: Jesus is the one who is speaking), (Holy) *Spirit*, *Satan*, and *overcomes*
3. The contrasting word *but* is used in verse 14. Mark the word and record what is being contrasted.
4. Make a list of what these verses clearly reveal about Jesus.

5. On your observation worksheet, underline (in different ways or colors) and list below the phrases which reveal:
 - a. actions Jesus praised
 - b. the actions Jesus was displeased with
 - c. the correction Jesus called for
 - d. the consequences of not changing
 - e. the promise to overcomers

DESCRIPTION OF PERGAMOS: Read Revelation 2:12,13

1. What church was to receive the message of Revelation 2:12-17?
2. Find Pergamos (Pergamum) on the map below and circle it.



3. Note what John recorded about this city in verse 13. What did he write?
 - a. What comes to mind when you think of a *throne*?
 - 1.) How might the use of the word *throne* help to describe *Satan's* influence in Pergamos?
4. In what ways might the area you *dwell* in be referred to as *Satan's throne*?

DESCRIPTION OF JESUS: Read Revelation 2:12

1. Record the attribute of Jesus described in this verse.
 - a. Record Jesus' earlier description of Himself from Revelation 1:16.

2. Using Revelation 19:15,21, describe the destruction of this *sword*.
 - a. What does Hebrews 4:12 reveal about the *word of God*?
 - 1.) How is this similar to the way Jesus will judge?

3. What comfort or encouragement might this description of Jesus give you if you lived where *Satan's throne* is?

THE GOOD: Read Revelation 2:13

1. Similar to the church in Smyrna, the church of Pergamos was suffering persecution. What *faithful martyr* was killed there?

Challenge: Research *Antipas* and share what you discover about him.

2. List the two *works* Jesus commended the church in *Pergamos* for.

3. Record the instructions from the following verses as they relate to *holding fast*:

1 Thessalonians 5:21

Hebrews 10:23

- a. What do you think it means to *hold fast to Jesus' name*?

4. In a time when men were being martyred for their faith, Jesus saw in the church in Pergamos those who did not *deny His faith*. Thoughtfully record the words of Hebrews 12:3.
 - a. How does *considering* the sufferings of Jesus, help you to remain faithful to Him?

5. As you consider the temptations of living where *Satan's throne is* and suffering persecution, what are your thoughts as to the *works* that Jesus praised them for?

THE BAD: Read Revelation 2:14,15

1. Although the church in Pergamos was faithfully *holding fast*, Jesus had a few things against them. What were they?

2. Link Revelation 2:14 to 2 Peter 2:15 and Jude 11. Write a description of Balaam.
 - a. What are some examples of actions that could be described as motivated by *wages of unrighteousness*?

Challenge: Summarize the story of Balaam as recorded in Numbers 22-24.

3. Note the strong emotions of Jesus toward the *doctrine of the Nicolaitans*. What did He say?

4. The rebuke was not only against those who hold the *doctrine of Balaam* and those who hold the *doctrine of the Nicolaitans*. The rebuke is also against those in the church who allow them to continue. What does Ephesians 5:11 teach us?
 - a. Why is it important to do this, rather than allow those who believe or live contrary to Scripture to remain in the church?

THE REMEDY: Read Revelation 2:16a

1. Jesus' remedy for the church in Pergamos was one word. What was it?
2. In view of the sins mentioned in verses 14,15, what acts of *repentance* might Jesus have expected?
3. What does it mean to you that Jesus does not overlook sin, even if we are doing good deeds?

THE WARNING: Read Revelation 2:16

1. Their refusal to *repent* would not be ignored. What would be the consequences if there were no *repentance*?
2. How does 1 Peter 4:17 relate to this warning?
 - a. In what ways does this verse speak to you about the sins of the church today (as a body and as to individuals)?
3. Describe a healthy fear of God.

THE PROMISE TO OVERCOMERS: Read Revelation 2:17

1. What two things are promised to *him who* overcomes?
2. Scripture does not reveal what the *hidden manna* will be; nor does it define the *white stone*. However, there are two words here that can be a blessing to dwell upon. What does it say to you that God gives you things that are *hidden* from others?
 - a. Meditate on the moment Jesus will present to you a *white stone* with a *new name written* on it which *no one knows except* the one *who receives it.....YOU!* What are your thoughts?

Observation Worksheet

Revelation 2:12-17

¹² "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword: ¹³ I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne *is*. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas *was* My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. ¹⁴ But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. ¹⁵ Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. ¹⁶ Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth. ¹⁷ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives *it*.' "