

WHAT JESUS LOOKS FOR IN A CHURCH
(Christ's Messages to the Seven Churches in Revelation 2-3)

The Church at Pergamum (Revelation 2: 12-17)
The Church Which Was Too Open-Minded

INTRODUCTION: In the messages to the churches at Ephesus & Smyrna we learned Jesus is looking for heartfelt worship and faithfulness in suffering that proves our love for Him. In His message to the church at Pergamum we learn Jesus is looking for uncompromising OBEDIENCE regardless the cost.

If you love Me, you will keep my commandments. John 14: 15

For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. 1 John 5: 3

The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 1 John 2: 4

CHRIST THE JUDGE OF COMPROMISE

1. Christ's Word is the decisive AUTHORITY.

And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: The One who has the sharp two-edged sword says this: Revelation 2: 12

...and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword... Revelation 1: 16

2. Christ's Word is the standard for JUDGMENT.

Repent therefore, or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of my mouth. Revelation 2: 16

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.

Hebrews 4: 12

COMMENDATION OF THE CHURCH AT PERGAMUM

1. It was a church with STAYING POWER.

I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is; and you hold fast My name... Revelation 2: 13a

2. It was a church that PAID THE PRICE.

...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. Rev. 2: 13b

CRITICISM OF CHURCH

1. It was a church tolerant of FALSE TEACHING.

But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam...Thus you have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Revelation 2: 14a-15

Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough? Clean out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump... 1 Cor. 5: 6-7a

2. It was a church tolerant of MORAL COMPROMISE.

...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. Revelation 2: 14b

I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he should be an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler--not even to eat with such a one...remove the wicked man from among yourselves. 1 Corinthians 5: 11 & 13b

CORRECTION OF PROBLEM

ONLY TWO OPTIONS:

1. REPENT

Repent therefore... Revelation 2: 16a,

2. or WAR

...or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth. Revelation 2: 16b

CONQUEROR'S REWARD

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. Revelation 2: 17