

## Equipping Hour

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### The Church

*The Seven Churches in Revelation*

#### Pergamum

##### Key Verse: Romans 12:2

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

##### Overview

Pergamum was about sixty miles north of Smyrna and fifteen miles inland from the Aegean Sea. The city was located on a hill about one thousand feet in elevation overlooking the Caicus River. The city was not as commercially important as Ephesus or Smyrna, but it was a rich and powerful city. It was the capital of the Kingdom of Pergamon from 281–133 B.C. In 133 B.C., Rome took control of Pergamon and Pergamum was designated as the capital of the province of Asia. Therefore, Pergamum was the official capital of the province for almost 250 years when this letter was written to the church. The city was a royal city and the home of authority.

The city had a large theater, agora, palace, barracks, and a library. The library contained 200,000 handwritten volumes and Pergamum became the chief center of culture and learning. The city saw itself as the defender of Greek culture in Asia Minor.

The city also had an altar of Zeus (one of the seven ancient wonders) that signified Pergamum’s religious importance. It was the center of four main deities of the Greco-Roman world: Athena, Dionysos, Zeus, and Asklepios, the god of healing.

Pergamum also built the first temple in Asia dedicated to a Roman Emperor. In 29 B.C., a temple was built in honor of Emperor Augustus. Later, the city would build two more temples in honor of emperors Trajan and Septimius Severus. The city became the center of emperor worship more than any other city in Asia.



##### The Letter

1. Revelation 2:12. Who is the angel? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Read Revelation 1:16. Who is “The One has the sharp two-edged sword”? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What does the “sharp two-edged sword” represent?

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

***Christ’s Commendation***

**Revelation 2:13**

1. What does Christ “know” about the church at Pergamum? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What was in the city of Pergamum? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What two things did the church do?

d. \_\_\_\_\_

e. \_\_\_\_\_

4. How does Christ describe Antipas? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

***Christ’s Condemnation***

**Revelation 2:14–15**

1. What “few things” did Jesus have against the church?

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the teaching of Balaam? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What is the teaching of the Nicolaitans? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Christ's Command*

**Revelation 2:16**

1. What was this church to repent from?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
2. James 4:4. How does James describe friendship with the world? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What are the consequences if they don't heed His command? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Christ's Challenge*

**Revelation 2:17**

1. Who is this challenge given to? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What two things are promised for those who overcome?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_

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“The church cannot tolerate evil in any form . . . Sinning believers should be made to feel miserable in the fellowship and worship of the church by being confronted powerfully with the Word of God . . . Today’s nonconfrontive church is largely repeating the error of the Pergamum church on a grand scale, and faces the judgment of the Lord of the church.”

—John MacArthur

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**Application**

1. What are sins that churches tolerate today?
2. How can you lovingly warn others about these truths?
3. What are sins you need to repent of to conform more to the image of Christ?