

THE UNVEILING OF JESUS CHRIST

"The Compromising Church"

Revelation 2:12-17

INTRODUCTION:

1. The church at Pergamum was *the Compromising Church*.
2. Read **Revelation 2:12-17**
3. Notice **Vs 13**
 - a) *"I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is."*

I. BACKGROUND OF THE CHURCH

1. Pergamum was the most northern of the seven churches.
 - a) Pergamum had been the capital of Asia for almost 400 years when the letter was written.
2. **Sir William Mitchell Ramsey** was an archaeologist and New Testament scholar.
 - a) By the time he died in 1939 he became the foremost authority of his day on the history of Asia Minor and leading scholar in the study of the New Testament.
 - b) Here's what he had to say: *"Beyond all other cities in Asia Minor, it gives the traveler the impression of a royal city, the home of authority. The rocky hill on which it stands is so huge and dominates the plain so proudly and so boldly."*
3. The library in Pergamum was second to none only to the library in Alexandria Egypt.
 - a) So Pergamum was an intellectual center as well as a center for Roman Authority and prominence.

II. THE JESUS OF PERGAMUM

1. **Vs 12**
 - a) *"The words of him who has the sharp two edged sword"*
 - b) **Cf. 1:16**
2. The sword represents judgment and King Jesus is prepared to use it on the city of Pergamum if they do not repent.
 - a) **2:16**
 - 1) *"Therefore repent"*

III. THE CHURCH EVALUATION

(Jesus diagnosis of the Pergamum church revealed 4 things)

A. JESUS KNOWS YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES

1. Vs 13

a) *"I know"*

2. Vs 13

a) *"where you dwell"*

b) *"where Satan's throne is"*

c) *"where Satan dwells"*

3. *"dwell"* - means to have a permanent address.

a) Jesus knew that where they lived; Satan lived.

4. Vs 13

a)

1) *"I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is."*

5. **"Asclepius"** - was the god of healing and was known as the Pergamene god.

a) The temples of Asclepius were the nearest things to hospitals in the ancient world.

b) The temple of Asclepius was referred to as **"Asclepius Soter"** or WOW!!!!!! **"Asclepius the Savior"**

6. Jesus understood exactly the darkness where the believers were living in Pergamum.

a) *"Jesus knows"*

B. JESUS KNOWS OUR CONVICTIONS

1. Vs 13c

a) *"Yet you hold fast my name"*

2. Even though they were persecuted, they held fast to their faith.

C. JESUS KNOWS OUR COURAGE

1. Vs 13

a) *"Even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you."*

2. Vs 13

a) "*Antipus my faithful witness*"

1) "*witness*" - martyr

3. Jesus is referred to as the "Faithful Witness"

a) *Revelation 1:5; 3:14*

D. HE KNOW IF WE COMPROMISE OUR FAITH

1. BIG - In each of the churches so far, Satan has employed different strategies to try and undermine their witness for Jesus.

a) Just as Satan knows our weaknesses and tries to undermine our witness for Jesus.

2. Satan's strategies are not random!! They are **CALCULATED!!**

a) In the church at Ephesus his strategy is to remove their love for Christ.

b) In the church at Smyrna his strategy was persecution by the Roman Empire.

c) NOW in the church at Pergamum Satan is going to try to weaken the church through **COMPROMISE**.

3. THE DOCTRINE OF BALAAM

a) Numbers 22-25

b) Balak, king of Moab wanted Israel destroyed.

1) So he went to Balaam and hired him to curse Israel.

2) And every time he opened his mouth to curse Israel.... A BLESSING CAME OUT!!!

c) So Balaam taught Balak how to put a stumbling block in the path of Israel in the form of enticements from Moabite women.

1) These women enticed Israelite men to take part in idolatrous sacrifices and commit sexual immorality.

2) **Numbers 25:1-3**

3) In response God killed 24000 Israelites for compromising their faith.

f) **Balaam's Motto:** If you can't curse them corrupt them.

g) So Balaam coveted money and was willing to do anything for it.

1) Including telling someone else how to lead people to sin.

2) **2:14**

5. THE DOCTRINE OF THE NICOLAITANS

a) Revelation 2:6

1) To Conquer - the Laity

b) Creating the clergy/laity division that existed throughout Church history had its beginning with the Nicolaitans.

IV. THE COMMAND TO THE CHURCH

1. Vs 16 WOW!!!

a) "**Repent**" - change directions

b) "**If not** ... wow

V. THE DELIVERANCE OF THE CHURCH

A. HIDDEN MANNA

1. Vs 17

a) "***I will give some of the hidden Manna***"

1) Manna of course was the heavenly food God gave the Israelites to keep them alive in the wilderness.

b) As a memorial to God's provision a pot of Manna was kept in the Ark of the Covenant.

2. Message: God has food that will sustain them!!!

B. A WHITE STONE

1. Vs 17

a) "***I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone.***"

2. The giving of the white stone not the believer here is the indication that he is accepted by Christ.

a) Even though rejected by the world.

VI. COMPROMISE TODAY

1. The merging of the church with the world.

2. The merging of the believer and the world.