

**Introduction:**

- In the letters to the seven churches, Jesus is speaking to the church. Note: he is walking among the churches and in the letters He is speaking to them. It is not seven messages to seven church it is a message to seven churches.
- Our goal in studying the Seven Churches is to see Jesus in the letters to the seven churches.
- Pergamos was encouraged for their faithfulness as they were called to stand up against false teaching that tolerated compromise with idolatrous feasts, which were like parties filled with immorality.
- *"And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: 'The words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword. 'I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality. So also you have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.'" Rev. 2:12-17 (ESV)*

**I. Jesus walks in Pergamos**

- A. Pergamos was another revival center city. The church had a strong presence there.
1. The church in Pergamos was in a wealthy city and was a center for idol worship. It was about 20 miles from the Aegean Sea. It is also spelled Pergamum, Pergamus, and Pergamon. It had a large university with a famous library of 200,000 volumes. Today, the village of Bergama is on the ancient site.
  2. Caesar Augustus made it the religious capital of the East (next to Rome in the West). It was the first city in Asia to build a temple to worship the emperor. In 29 BC
  3. It was also home to temple of the top four Greek Gods: Zeus, Athena, Dionysos, and Asclepius (Esculapius)—each of which had a center of temple prostitution.
    - a. The throne of Satan refers to the multitude of altars of false worship. Each had a priesthood with temple prostitution.
      - (i) Doctrine of the Baalamites (Numbers 22-23) –Balaam caused Israel to stumble by eating food sacrificed to idols and practicing sexual immorality).
      - (ii) Nicolaitans (Jude 4) – taught a very cheap grace, (*'you prayed the prayer you are fine'*) – infiltrated the church. These doctrines had to do with strong compromise, a cheapening of grace. It made Pergamos an oppressive Satanic City.

## II. Jesus' revelation of Himself

- Rev. 2:12 (NKJV) *"These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword. "*
  - The sword comes from Jesus' mouth to release judgment on His enemies (Rev. 1:16; 19:15, 21)
- A. He is revealing Himself to the church in the midst of this wicked city! He is not hiding who He is in light of what they or anyone else is doing! **He is zealous!**
1. He is the One with the sharp two-edged sword. He is a warrior. Zeal against that which declared war on Him.
    - a. Isaiah 42:13 (NIV) *The LORD will march out like a champion, like a warrior he will stir up his zeal; with a shout he will raise the battle cry and will triumph over his enemies.*
    - b. Isaiah 59:17 (NIV) *He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak.*
      - (i) Often the Lord restrains His zeal. And then at a distant point in time, He intervenes. The Lord gives time for people to repent.
- B. He has the sharp two-edged sword
1. The sword from Jesus mouth releases judgment on His enemies and reveals the zeal of His heart.
    - a. Revelation 1:16 (NKJV) *He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.*
    - b. Revelation 19:15 (NKJV) *Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations.*
  2. The sword that proceeds from His mouth is the word of God.
  3. Eight or nine times in Revelation Jesus' sword is mentioned. It is either in His hand or in His mouth.
  4. Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*
    - a. Ephesians 6:17 (NKJV) *And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;*
- C. His Zeal Breaks out against anything internal or external that harms his people.
1. His sword will strike against the persecutors,
    - a. Those who killed Antipas. (Tradition says that Antipas was Bishop of Pergamos and boiled alive in a copper kettle.) He had no compromise and stood against the gods of his day.
  2. His sword will strike against the compromisers.
  3. He is seeking faithful—vs. 13

- a. He desires a bride who is not compromising by giving herself away to others.
- b. He is passionate about this and willing to deal with those who find comfort and confidence in their sin. He will deal with those much differently than those who are struggling and confessing and seeking to be free.

### III. He is The Rewarder

#### A. Seeking the Faithful

1. Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV): *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

#### B. To Him who overcomes—three rewards:

1. I will give some of the hidden manna
  - a. We know this about manna
    - (i) Ex 16:4 – It was from God and given daily.
    - (ii) Ex 16:31 – looked like coriander seed and tasted like honey.
    - (iii) Ps 78:24 – it was the food of angels
    - (iv) Jesus referred to himself as the bread/manna of heaven come down to give us life.
  - b. We are rewarded for dealing with our compromise with daily strength, sweetness to the soul,
2. I will give a white stone
  - a. The Bible is silent on this. It could refer to a known practice of John's day of giving a stone/a free pass to one who has received honor. It gives them special privileges in the kingdom.
3. I will give a new name which no one knows except him who receives it.
  - a. All through the Bible we find people who have had unique encounters with God being renamed. That name reflected a prophetic purpose, a call.
  - b. Abram to Abraham, Jacob to Israel, Simon to Peter, Saul to Paul.
  - c. You can count on that new name, that is unique to you, of being and honor and an encouragement because it is the Lord himself who names you!

### Conclusion:

- Jesus is full of zeal
- With zeal He stands against compromise in the church!
- Isaiah 9:6-7 (ESV) *"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this".*