



## Pergamum: The Scared, Compromising Church

**Warm Up Question:** Say you're independently wealthy and don't have to work, what would you do with your time?

**Read Revelations 2:12-17**

*12 “To the angel of the church in Pergamum write:*

*These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. 13 I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives. 14 Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality. 15 Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. 16 Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.*

*17 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.*

- 1. Jesus describes himself as “the one who has the sharp, double-edged sword”. Do you ever envision Him this way? Why or why not? Why would it be important for us to relate to Him like this?*
- 2. The church at Pergamum took at stand for Christ and Antipas was martyred. Fearing more death, the the temptation to compromise became a reality. People within the church began to make compromises in hopes that they could avoid persecution, enjoy the comforts of Roman culture, and still worship Christ. Is it possible to faithfully follow Christ and...  
...avoid trouble and hardships for obedience to Him? Please explain?*

*...enjoy all the comforts and privileges of our culture. Please explain?*

3. *The believers at Pergamum had the doctrine of Ballam (people becoming stumbling blocks to the faith) and the teaching of the Nicolations (people teaching grace was a license to sin) to distract them from their walk with Christ? What ideas and cultural influences distract us in our walk with Christ?*
4. *Some of the people in the church at Pergamum believed the lie that they could avoid persecution, enjoy the comforts of culture, and still faithfully follow Christ. What are some of the lies we might believe?*
5. *Jesus warned that those who did not repent from the lies being spread in their midst would not be victorious. They would not receive the hidden manna (God's provision) or the white stone (God's acceptance). What do we, as a church, stand to lose if we choose to accept popular social, cultural, and moral ideas that compromise the teachings of scripture?*

*Prayer: Pray that the Lord would reveal inconsistencies and compromises that we are making now of which we are not aware.*