



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## Pergamum – A Compromising Church (Rev 2:12-17)

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*Compromise is often useful in negotiations, relationships, and planning. However, compromise can be dangerous in science, engineering, technology, and things of character or of faith! For example, if we fail to secure our intellectual or physical property, it is compromised and exposed to danger. In what ways have you been hurt by compromise?*

### INTRODUCTION

The Apostle John transcribed Christ's letter to the leadership of seven churches, which represent types of churches throughout the centuries. The message to those in spiritual leadership is very relevant in today's culture! Each letter has a salutation or greeting, Christ's self-designation or identity, a commendation (except Laodicea), a condemnation (except Smyrna and Philadelphia), an exhortation, and a promise. **What spiritual feedback have you received from God?**

### LEADERS/MEMBERS IN PERGAMUM

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

Christ uses the term "angel" as in the messenger addressing the spiritual leadership of the church. The sword refers to the large broad sword used in battle! The greeting alerts readers of the supreme authority sending the message and of the extreme warning coming. **Have you received an extreme warning?**

### COMMENDATION

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

Pergamum (now Bergama) is inland from the Aegean Sea. It was the capital of the Roman Province of Asia Minor. It was also the center of pagan cults: including a huge, throne-shaped altar to Zeus, a temple to Caesar, and a temple with a school of medicine. Their healing had a focus on superstition, using snake therapy. Antipas and others were martyred as witnesses for Christ. **How is Satan worshiped today?**

### CONDEMNATION

*Revelation 2:14-15 "But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who was enticed by king Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit acts of immorality. Likewise, you also have some who in the same way hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans."*

Balak, king of Moab, bribed the prophet Balaam to send Moabite women in to seduce Israelite men. The resulting blasphemous unions introduced Israel to idolatrous feasts and fornication. This weakened the Nation (Numbers 25:1). Nicolaitans were a New Testament sect that taught a perverted grace and replaced liberty with license (Acts 15:19-29). Christ is concerned with the salvation of the individual but not at the expense of His church. Without discipline, we are vulnerable to the lure of the culture and the wiles of Satan. **Have you seen this in churches today?**

### EXHORTATION AND PROMISE

*Revelation 2:16-17 "Therefore repent! Otherwise, I am coming to you quickly, and will make 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 him who overcomes, to him I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone, with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it."*

The sword is the Holy Spirit, hidden from the unbelievers, and the Word of God. Parchment was developed in Pergamum and used to record God's word on scrolls. A white stone was given to athletes as admission to the awards ceremony. Your name will be in the Book of Life, admission to glory (Revelation 22:4). **Does Jesus know your name!**

### A PRAYER

Father God: Thank You for giving me Your Holy Spirit and Your revealed Word to empower me to live to the fullest. And thank You for the grace to be named in your Book of Life, giving me a place in Heaven, The New Jerusalem. I pray in Jesus's Name!