

Dear Church

Revelation 2:12 - 17

It is Easy But Do Not Compromise.

First, almost any church – even a contemporary congregation – has more in common with one of these historic congregations than with the others. ... Even within each local church one can find these same problems and virtues. For example, some Christians are Ephesian Christians ... while others are Philadelphian Christians ... and so forth. ~Paige Patterson Revelation, Page 75.

1. Dear church, do not compromise because of _____ or _____ you live.

Pergamum ... [was] a center of Roman government and pagan religion in the Asia Minor region. It was the first city in Asia Minor to build a temple to a Roman ruler (Augustus) and the capital of the whole area for the cult of the emperor. The city proudly referred to itself as the “temple warden” ... of a temple dedicated to Caesar worship. Life in such a politico-religious center put all the more pressure on the church to pay public homage to Caesar as a deity, refusal of which meant high treason to the state. Furthermore, Pergamum was also a center of pagan cults of various deities. For example, the cult of Asclepius, the serpent god of healing, was prominent in Pergamum; the serpent symbol of Asclepius also became one of the emblems of the city and may have [been] ... “the throne of Satan” Zeus, Athene, Demeter, and Dionysus were also gods receiving significant cultic attention. The reference to “Satan’s throne” may also have been brought to mind because of ... the throne-like altar of Zeus, which itself would have been sufficient to arouse the thought of the devil’s throne. ~G. K. Beale, The Book of Revelation Page 246.

A. Hold fast to My name. Deuteronomy 10:20

B. Do not deny My faith.

2. Dear church, do not compromise because of _____.



3. Dear church, do not compromise because of the _____ or _____ of others.

A. Those like Balaam. 2 Peter 2:15, Jude 1:11, Numbers 22-24, Numbers 31:15-16

B. Those like the Nicolaitans

An overemphasis on internal doctrinal purity can lead to a lack of concern for the outside world [Ephesus], whereas a deemphasis can lead to overidentification with the world [Pergamos]. ~G. K. Beale, The Book of Revelation Page 248

• 2 Timothy 4:2-4, Titus 3:10 James 1:2-3

4. Dear church, do not compromise or else you will have to _____ Me.

➤ You cannot beat God, He is invincible.

5. Dear church, do not compromise and you will be _____.

A. Rewarded with hidden manna.

B. Rewarded with a white stone with a new name on it.

• Revelation 19:9, 11-13, Revelation 22:4, Philippians 2:9-11

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches

What did I hear this morning?

What am I going to do, hear or hear and obey?

