

# THE SEVEN LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES

THE LAST WORDS OF JESUS CHRIST TO HIS CHURCH UNTIL AND BEFORE HE RETURNS FOR US.

## REVELATION 2:12-17

Recording Number JHX 482 Sunday April 26, 2020

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

**“MY DEAR PERGAMOS,  
I’VE WRITTEN YOU A LETTER”**

Compromise. Appeasement. Dangers. Warnings

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

The Church, End Times, Repentance, Revival, You and me.

Revelation 2:12-17

“And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, ‘These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword: 13 “I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. 14 But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. 15 Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. 16 Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth. :17 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.” ’

“Today, you and I are living out historic events *in real time.*”

“In this day, you and I are making church history as we navigate these global changes *in real time.*”

“Right now, in real time we’re watching biblical prophecies form and too we have a front row seat. All of it - *in real time.*”

**In these days of this global pandemic -**

We are, as a world and as a culture, as a church – walking down a path that has never been experienced before.

**Here’s The Great News**

**Jesus Christ Said That There’d be Days Like This.**

There’d be Days Like This, - My Jesus Said!

**Joel 3:1**

**“For behold, in those days and at that time,**

**Luke 21:29**

**Then Jesus spoke to the people a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. 30 When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. 31 So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near.**

**Revelation 9:6**

**In those days..**

**Luke 21:43**

**For the days will come upon..**

**John 16:4**

**But these things I have told you, that when the time comes,  
you may remember that I told you of them.**

**We have paused “at this time” and “in these days”  
to examine and to determine if we are right with God as a nation, as a church  
but most importantly – as a Christian.**

**The Seven Letters of Jesus Christ to His Church,  
the Churches in this world from then to now.**

**Background to the time and location of;**

**Pergamos / Pergamum**

**Pergamos**, meaning MARRIED OR TIED OR BONDED TOGETHER. It was a wealthy roman city of great influence in the empire, Pergamos was well known for its' Invention and use of Papyrus Paper. Unique as it was not on the trade route of the ancient world – but it was just as important as IT WAS A HUB OF SPIRITUAL ACTIVITY.

**Pergamos (mum) Encouraged, Offered Up, Endorsed,  
A Mixing Between Two Worlds and Whatever Religion.**

Pergamos was (is) in the region of what we know as biblical “Mysia” in ancient Anatolia (ana'to'lia) today's modern Turkey. Its location was (is) the most western “tip”, the “jumping off point” of Asia into the European West with Asia to its East.

**So as we approach the city of Pergamos**

**We come to its city limits and its greeting**

**Welcome to Pergamos**

**“Where Everyone Is Sincere”**

**Population 200,000**

Pergamos welcomed you  
to a city and a culture of paganism and compromise. As a Christian, it was a tough place to be if  
you were spiritually weak of heart and faith.

There are (2) overriding themes that are here for us to apply to our own lives. (1) The issue of  
faithfulness to the point of martyrdom if called upon (2) The issue of compromise with the world and  
the spirit of this world

1 John 2:15-17

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father  
is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the  
pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the  
lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

2 Corinthians 13:5

Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know  
yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? unless indeed you are disqualified.

**peirazo;**

to make proof of, to present to be tested, or put to the test or the trying of the test –  
meaning “what is advertised is what is sold.”

## **MY DEAR PERGAMOS I’VE WRITTEN YOU A LETTER**

1.) Requiring you to be **prepared** vs.12

Revelation 2:12-13

“And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write,  
‘These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword:

**“The sharp two-edged sword”**  
is something we do not have to guess about.

Hebrews 4:12

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 (it) is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

**It is the Word of God.**

In one direction it exposes the human heart and mind in judgment.  
In the other direction there is forgiveness, salvation and healing.

**Seven, 7 Times in the Bible this Word is Used for the Sword.**

## Simeon Speaking to Mary the Mother of Jesus

### Luke 2:35

Yes, a **sword** will pierce through your own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”

### Revelation 1:16

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.

### Revelation 2:16

Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the **sword of My mouth**.

### Revelation 19:15

Now out of His mouth goes a **sharp sword**, that with it He should strike the nations.

### Revelation 19:21a

And the rest were killed with the **sword** which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse.

## Verse 13a

13 “I know your **works** , and where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is.

I know the environment of your city and those that live there.  
I know that it’s wholly given over to paganism and cult worship.

**The Temples of Athena, Dionysus, Asclepius,  
and of course the chief god of them all Zeus**

<https://voyageturkey.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/pergamon-1-678x381.jpg>

[https://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.lookandlearn.com%2Fhistoryimages%2Fpreview%2FM%2FM179%2FM179949\\_Reconstructed-Altar-on-the-Acropolis-of-Pergamon.jpg&imgrefurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.lookandlearn.com%2Fhistory-images%2FM179949%2FReconstructedAltarontheAcropolisofPergamon&tbnid=dKy\\_YaQUXNEyCM&vet=10CA0QxiAoCmoXChMiuNf70fWB6QIVAAAAAB0AAAAEA4..i&docid=RFnx1Cue3\\_VA5M&w=512&h=322&itg=1&q=the%20altar%20of%20zeus&client=safari&ed=0CA0QxiAoCmoXChMiuNf70fWB6QIVAAAAAB0AAAAEA4](https://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.lookandlearn.com%2Fhistoryimages%2Fpreview%2FM%2FM179%2FM179949_Reconstructed-Altar-on-the-Acropolis-of-Pergamon.jpg&imgrefurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.lookandlearn.com%2Fhistory-images%2FM179949%2FReconstructedAltarontheAcropolisofPergamon&tbnid=dKy_YaQUXNEyCM&vet=10CA0QxiAoCmoXChMiuNf70fWB6QIVAAAAAB0AAAAEA4..i&docid=RFnx1Cue3_VA5M&w=512&h=322&itg=1&q=the%20altar%20of%20zeus&client=safari&ed=0CA0QxiAoCmoXChMiuNf70fWB6QIVAAAAAB0AAAAEA4)

<https://gnosticwarrior.com/healing-centers-asclepius.html>

What was “**Where Satan’s Throne Is**” in Pergamos Mean?  
( location, location, location )

### But Pastor Jack

“I thought **Satan was in hell** strapped to a BBQ with an apple in his mouth.” Wrong. No. He’s out running around the world and down the halls of power today.

**1 John 5:19**

We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under **the sway** of the wicked one.

At the temple of Asclepius there was a tunnel. Not just any tunnel, it was the “tunnel of healing” and no matter what kind of healing you needed as you walked through that tunnel, there were seductive female voices that would speak down to you from openings or portals in the ceiling that would say..

**“You are healed. You have been healed by Asclepius; the god of all healing has healed you – only believe. only believe. Believe in Asclepius and all will be well.”**

“Where do you live? **“I live in that Black House on 666 Devil Lane”**”

**“That’s Why I Have You Living Where You Live.”**

It took a global pandemic to stop people from moving about.

“If you’re moving out of California because He’s absolutely told you, to then move – quickly. But if He hasn’t told you to move and moved - - that’s on you!”  
**How** did God speak to you? // **What** did He say? // How **did** He say it?

While studying for this message I was reminded that Pergamos was a chief city of Greco-Roman politics and religion Mixed for all of Asia minor.

**Politics mingled with paganism** explains why Pergamos was so anti-Christian and antichrist and violent toward the church.

It was one of the epicenters for education and instruction. In fact there was a library there that was world-famous at the time that had over 200,000 manuscripts. In fact when **General Mark Anthony** arrived in Pergamos, he took that library and sent it to Egypt as a gift to **Cleopatra**.

**Verse 13b**

**And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith**

Commendation #1

You’ve Held Fast to my Authority (Name)

Commendation #2

You’ve Held Fast to my Revelation (Faith)

**Verse 13c**

**even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr,  
who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.**

<https://www.newsweek.com/christian-persecution-genocide-worse-ever-770462>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-48146305>

# MY DEAR PERGAMOS I'VE WRITTEN YOU A LETTER

## 2.) Requiring you to be true

vs.14-16

### Revelation 2:14

But I have a few things against YOU, <sup>(1)</sup> because YOU have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.

### The doctrine of Balaam

Balaam was a Prophet of God who desired to turn a Profit from being a "Man of God". Balaam told King Balak how to get the Israelites to commit sin by enticing them with "spiritually approved of – sexual immorality" and foods sacrificed to idols. (the hook) The Israelites chose to transgress against God and so God allowed a deadly plague, a scourge to come upon Israel as a result of their disobedience. (Numbers 31:16).

There will always be temptation and the one who is the tempter (physically, spiritually) always. But no tempter or temptress can make you sin. We decide to sin. We decide, after looking at the temptation, to think about it just a lil'. Then after we have entertained the sin, it then sticks in our head - when that happens, we have now set ourselves up for the act. The result will be painful at the least.

### regarding the detection of false spirits Peter writes;

#### 2 Peter 2:14

Having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children. 15 They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

#### James 1:13-15 nlt

And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, "God is tempting me." God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. 14 Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. 15 These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.

### Regarding Sexual Immorality

#### Proverbs 6:27-28

Can a man take fire to his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?  
28 Can one walk on hot coals, and his feet not be seared?

"A social relationship with the heathen world would lead in some instances to partaking of the heathen festivals or pagan holy days which in turn led to heathen acts of immorality which was a great part of idol worship. Based upon Jesus Christ knowledge of the culture and church there were some Christians who believed that they were free to delve into these "liberties". However Christ's absolute condemnation of the doctrine of Balaam as it related to the church is a clear testimony to the fact that Christians must at all costs remain pure and separate from the defilement of the world and its religious and immoral standards." **Dr. John Walvoord**

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, A Commentary Moddy Press 1966

### Verse 15

Thus <sup>(2)</sup> you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

The Disciples of Nicolas were a group that had infiltrated the church.  
They completely agreed with a saying we are all familiar with;

### **“When in Rome, Do as the Romans Do”**

It was and is one of the most hedonistic philosophies there is.

It's been dressed up today and we call it;  
**Situational Ethics.**

“When in Rome, Do as the Romans Do” or “When in Las Vegas, Do as the Las Vegas's Do” or When with this crowd, do as they do, but when you're with the other crowd....

“If you can't be with the one you love – honey love the one you're with”  
That was from the temple of Steven Stills (Crosby, Stills & Nash)

Secular humanism. / Hedonism. Existentialism. / It's all Paganism...

#### **The argument means;**

That they were guilty of mixing or ***co-mingled the doctrines of the bible with their pagan culture*** that was native to the community.

**Images and icons of their patron gods and goddesses**

Were placed everywhere **to remind the Pergamum's of their dependence upon these gods.**

church – here's some advice. Any “deity” that needs to have someone remind you to think of that deity or its time to pray to that deity and poster that deity's name or iconic image - - so a made-made, created god.

**True Faith is Never “Obtained” – Rather, it is Experienced based Upon the Facts.**

#### **Ezekiel 36:26**

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

#### **Jeremiah 31:33**

But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

#### **John 14:16-18**

And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever **17** the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. **18** I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

It is human nature to “fear” what your community thinks about you.

**Proverbs 29:25**

The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the LORD shall be **SAFE**.

**Safe**

**Heb. Sagab** inaccessibly, high up, highly placed, to be set in or on high place, free, unfettered, bold.

**Proverbs 28:1**

But the wicked run away when no one is chasing them, but the godly are as bold as lions.

**Verse 16**

Repent, or else I will come to you quickly  
and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

**MY DEAR PERGAMOS  
I'VE WRITTEN YOU A LETTER**

**3.) Requiring you to be encouraged vs.17**

Notice with me how the LORD ends with an Olive branch of Mercy and Grace, Let "him" whoever has an ear – let him hear what the Spirit is saying...

**Revelation 2:17**

:17 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

**Verse 17b**

To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat.

This is not a prize to the person who overcomes, this word implies that every true child of God will overcome into that true Christian, Jesus will give "the gift of Hidden Manna."

**What is Hidden Manna?**

**John 6:28-35**

Then they (the people) said to Jesus, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" :29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent." :30 Therefore they said to Him, "What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do? 31 Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' " :32 Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." :34 Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always." :35 And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

**Verse 17c**

And I will give him a white stone, AND on the stone a new name written  
which no one knows except him who receives it.



## In many of the judicial systems of the ancient world,

The idea or act of receiving a “**white stone**” was given to the accused by the judge or council. The white stone was **proof positive** that you had been acquitted of charges brought against you and that your **name was cleared**.

### But Here's The Punch Line..

It wasn't so much of it being a white stone (diamonds had been used as well)

It was **what was written** on the stone, “**A New Name**”

With the acquittal came a “clear slate” and “a new name”  
and a “new beginning” = celebrating one's “new life.”

### Example; To the Church at Philadelphia

#### Revelation 3:12a

He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. **I will write on him the name of My God.**

## A Mark of Ownership

**What** marks you today / **Who** marks you today.

#### 1 Corinthians 6:20 nlt

For God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.

\_\_\_\_\_ *End of Study* \_\_\_\_\_

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