

take a stand and strong action against compromise and immoral behavior, He will! And His judgment is always more severe than ours!

REMEMBER: The same Jesus who said “\_\_\_\_\_ unto Me” also said, “\_\_\_\_\_ from Me.”

### COMPENSATION:

“Will receive the \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_.”

NOTE: The white stone takes us to Roman judiciary proceedings. They used white and black stones to signify the verdict. White was the symbol of acquittal, and black the symbol of guilt. So when Jesus gives us a white stone—it’s a way of reminding us that He took our guilt and shame and has forgiven us. Thus, before Him, we are not only “Not Guilty,” we are “completely innocent.”

### SOME QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT:

What are some ways the Church compromises with the world today?

Consider your life: your work, play, church and family. Are you compromising in any of these areas? If so, how? More importantly, are you ready to repent of those sins and be more like Jesus today?

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FROM ANCIENT TO MODERN: Seven Churches of Revelation Today  
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Study Guide



## FROM ANCIENT TO MODERN

### SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION TODAY

#### *Pergamum: The Open-Minded Church*

*“And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, ‘These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword: “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. 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. Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight 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 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.””*

*Revelation 2:12-17 (NKJV)*

Would you rather be  
**open-minded**  
or **narrow-minded**



“Gallup and Barna hand us survey after survey demonstrating that evangelical Christians are as likely to embrace lifestyles every bit as hedonistic, materialistic, self-centered, and sexually immoral as the world in general.” —Michael Horton, *Beyond Culture Wars*, 1993, p3.

“Every day the Church is becoming more like the \_\_\_\_\_ it allegedly seeks to change...” —George Barna

In writing to the church at Pergamum, Jesus confronts a congregation that had become too open-minded about stuff. As Jesus writes to the ancient Asia-minor church, could He also be writing to the church of today? What does He say?

## PERGAMUM

Population: \_\_\_\_\_

Known As: \_\_\_\_\_

Library had \_\_\_\_\_ scrolls made from \_\_\_\_\_

Unlike Smyrna, Christians were \_\_\_\_\_

Besides the typical temples to gods like Zeus, Dionysus, and Athena, there was the temple to Asclepius, who was known as the god of \_\_\_\_\_. He was symbolized as a man carrying a staff with a \_\_\_\_\_ wrapped around it. You can still see this symbol for healing in the medical profession to this very day.

## THE MESSAGE TO PERGAMUM:

### COMMENDATION:

“Held fast to My \_\_\_\_\_.”

“Didn’t \_\_\_\_\_ their \_\_\_\_\_.”

### CONDEMNATION:

“Hold the doctrines of \_\_\_\_\_.”

“Hold the teachings of the \_\_\_\_\_.”

**“Compromised with evil is  
more dangerous than pure evil.”**

NOTE: Pergamum had adopted an attitude of flexibility and openness—refusing to take a stand for truth or doctrine. It’s Ephesus in reverse! There they were so uptight about the doctrines they turned people away. Here, the doctrines don’t matter, the people do. Without balance, this is extremely dangerous.

### COUNSEL:

“\_\_\_\_\_!”

NOTE: The word translated “repent” from the original Greek carries the idea of doing a 180 degree turn around. Stop doing what you’re doing, and go in the opposite direction. To repent from sin is to turn from it and toward God.

### CHALLENGE:

“I will \_\_\_\_\_ to you quickly and will \_\_\_\_\_ against them with the sword of My mouth.”

NOTE: It’s almost as though Jesus says, “Don’t make Me come down there!” The warning of Jesus is that if the Church doesn’t