

## JESUS' LETTER TO THE *COMPROMISED* CHURCH Studies in the Revelation

Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy,  
and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.  
Revelation 1:3

“And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the  
words of the prophecy of this book.”  
Revelation 22:7

### THE PROBLEM OF *MIXED*-MARRIAGES – (AD 313-606)

“And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write...”  
Revelation 2:12a

“Pergamum” means: \_\_\_\_\_

You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive,  
(why) because you ask with wrong motives, (which are) so that you may  
spend it on your pleasures. You adulteresses (engaged in mixed  
marriage), do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility with  
God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes  
himself an enemy of God.  
James 4:2b-4

### Some Examples of a Church Married to the World:

AD 300	Prayers for the dead
AD 300	Making the sign of the cross
AD 375	Worship of saints and angels
AD 394	Mass first instituted
AD 431	Worship of Mary begun
AD 500	Priests to dress differently than laymen
AD 526	Extreme unction
AD 593	Doctrine of Purgatory introduced
AD 600	Worship services conducted in Latin
AD 600	Prayers directed to Mary

### THE DESCRIPTION CHRIST CHOSE FOR HIMSELF:

“And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: The One who has the  
sharp two-edged sword says this ...”  
Revelation 2:12

And out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword.  
Revelation 1:16b

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit; which is the  
word of God.  
Ephesians 6:17

For the (what) word of God is living and active and sharper than any  
(what) two-edged sword.  
Hebrews 4:12

From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down  
the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the  
wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.  
Revelation 19:15

#### Note:

**This is the first negative introduction of Christ to the churches  
because they faced His imminent judgment because of their  
departure from His Word.**

### THE GOOD STUFF...

“I know (the good things about you)  
(1) where you dwell, (which is) where Satan’s throne is;  
(2) and you hold fast My name,  
(3) and did not deny My faith, (to what degree) even in the days of  
Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you,  
where Satan dwells.”  
Revelation 2:13

#### Question:

**What does “where Satan’s throne” or “where Satan dwells”  
mean? And what is the significance of Antipas?**

### THE “NOT SO GOOD”...UH, MAKE THAT “BAD” STUFF:

**One, from the Old Testament:**

“But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a (1) stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to (2) eat things sacrificed to idols, and to (3) commit acts of immorality.”

Revelation 2:14

### **The Teaching of Balaam:**

“But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam.”

Revelation 2:14a

### **The Way of Balaam:**

Forsaking the right way they have gone astray, (how) having followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness.

2 Peter 2:15

### **The Error of Balaam:**

Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

Jude 11

### **Question:**

**What is the *teaching* or *way* or *error* of Balaam?**

### **Answer:**

**“If you can’t curse them, corrupt them!”**

1. Using God for our own purpose – (2:14a)
2. Worship of the World / Idolatry – (2:14b)
3. The acceptance of sin, greed, lust, etc. – (2:14c)

### **Two, from the New Testament:**

“So you also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.”

Revelation 2:15

“Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.”

Revelation 2:6

### **THE COMMAND TO THE *COMPROMISED* CHURCH:**

“Therefore repent; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth.”

Revelation 2:16

I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word...

2 Timothy 4:1-2a

Do not be bound together with unbelievers; (why) for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, “I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE,” says the Lord. “AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; and I will welcome you. And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me.” says the Lord Almighty.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

### **THE “EVERYTHING MEANS SOMETHING” PHRASE:**

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

Revelation 2:17a

### **THE “PROMISE” TO THE OVERCOMER:**

“To him who overcomes, to him I will give...”

- (1) some of the hidden manna, and I will give him
- (2) a white stone, and
- (3) a new name written (where) on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.”

Revelation 2:17b

“And He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, (why) that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord.”

Deuteronomy 8:3

“I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.”

John 6:48-51