

# Compromise or Calling?

Revelation 2:12-17 –The Church at Pergamum



# Pergamum (Modern Bergama, Turkey)

- A centre of imperial worship
- A deeply pagan city
- A centre of learning and culture  
(Intellectually impressive but spiritually dangerous!)
- Why is it described so strongly –
  - **Idolatry everywhere**
  - **Political pressure to worship Caesar**
  - **Spiritual opposition embedded in daily life**

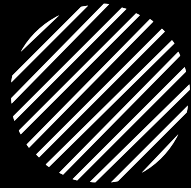


# Commendation

- They remained faithful in the face of persecution!
- Antipas –
  - He is called “my faithful witness” (the same word used of Jesus in Revelation 1:5).
  - He was martyred in Pergamum for his loyalty to Christ.
  - His death likely came from refusing emperor worship or pagan practices.
- Antipas was a model of faithfulness and a contrast to the compromise of others
- How would we react in the face of severe persecution?



# Compromise (Vs 16-17)



- Nicolaitans – Licentiousness (See the church of Ephesus)
- The teaching of Balaam – (Balak was a king afraid of Israel, Balaam was a pagan prophet)
- Numbers 25; 31:16
  - Seduce Israel into sin instead of attacking them directly
  - Moabite women:
    - Drew Israel into sexual immorality
    - Invited them to idolatrous feasts and worship of Baal

*Israel fell - not by force, but by compromise*

- Does this sound familiar? – Many are compromising with the world today

***We must repent; You can't compromise with sin!***



# Calling Vs 16-17

Call to repent!

***“Otherwise, I will fight against them with the sword of my mouth” Vs16***

The word of God! Sword of the spirit  
(See Hebrews 4:12)

- The Word of God brings things to light.

***Shame Buries, Conviction reveals***



*To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it. Vs 17*

- Hidden Manna – God’s provision
- White stone with a new name
  - Cleansing
  - Entry token – to Banquet
  - New Identity

***Jesus takes away your guilt, and you are cleansed. You are eternally accepted and given entry to the Kingdom***



# Conclusion

Hear God's commendation!

- If you have been standing through difficult seasons, if you have kept your faith in the face of criticism/persecution
- Well done!

**What will you choose - Compromise or Calling?**

*Will you accept the compromises of the world?*

Or

*Will you accept the calling? – repent of any compromises. Have your conscience cleansed & made new! Get your new name and your acceptance.*

