

How can I understand the letter to the church of Pergamos in Revelation (2:12-17)?

The next section of the book of Revelation is a series of 7 letters sent to 7 different first century churches. The churches that were to receive the letters were churches that already existed and the condition of those churches are what is being addressed. It has nothing to do with the general state of the church during 7 epochs of time but the churches with the described characteristics existed in the first century and they continue to exist today.

1. What is the significance of the identity of the speaker to the angel?

Revelation **2:12**

Hebrews **4:12**

John **1:1-3**

John **16:7-11**

The speaker identifies Himself as “he which has the sharp sword with two edges”. The two edged sword which will cut through no matter what it encounters. Its primary use is to expose the reality of sin and depravity and thus the need for Jesus. Since the Word of God is a two edged sword, it is also a reference to Jesus and His words. It is the Spirit of God that uses the Word of God to expose error and convince of depravity and the need for Jesus.

2. What is the word of encouragement to the church?

Revelation **2:13**

1 Corinthians **15:58**

Colossians **1:21-23**

Hebrews **10:23-24**

The church of Pergamos is identified as remaining steady in proclaiming Christ and pursuing after Him. They did not waver in disbelief nor in trusting in what the scriptures proclaimed. They could be relied upon to communicate the truth of the Gospel to others.

3. What is the word of condemnation to the church?

Revelation **2:14-15**

Jude **1:11**

Numbers **31:16**

1 Corinthians **5:1-6**

1 Corinthians **6:12**

The church of Pergamos had its problems with people within the church pursuing ungodly pursuits either as related to the love of money. They apparently also brought in unbridled idolatry and the use of sexual perversion into their worship. Apparently the doctrines in question allowed for and even encouraged unbridled and uncontrolled behavior.

4. What is the word of correction to the church?

Revelation **2:16**

Matthew **3:7-8**

Luke **16:29-31**

Acts **17:29-31**

God's call to all churches, especially those who do not take the wrath of God and the judgment of God seriously but instead take salvation for granted, God calls them to repent and to what God

commands and what He desires. We are called to pursue a life that is a reflection of the presence and guidance of the Lord for His righteousness sake.

5. What is the word of encouragement to the those that truly hear?

Revelation **2:17**

John **6:31-35**

Matthew **21:42**

Exodus 28:30

Isaiah 62:1-2

Isaiah **65:1-2**

Acts **11:26-27**

God promises “manna”, “white stone”, “a new name”. The manna is the “living bread from heaven” which ultimately points to Jesus Christ as the one who sustains their life and enables them to dwell in the kingdom of God. The white stone ultimately refers to Christ who is the chief anchor or corner stone. All of salvation rests upon Him. It could be related to the Urim and Thummim used in the priestly perfect judgment. The new name is a reference to Jesus. A people are to be called by the name that God gives to them. The people of Israel were expected to be identified as and to function as though they were God's people, but they refused to do so. As a result, God sought after a new people. Ones that God would be proud to identify them as His people. These are a people who are given the new name of God's people – Christian –