

1 **WHEN COMPROMISE BECOMES CURSE**

Rev. 2:12-17

2 **VS. 12-13 WHERE SATAN HAS HIS THRONE**

Pergamum was the capital of the Roman Empire for more than 250 years. It was the first place to have a temple built for the worship of the Emperor. In addition to Caesar, other gods worshipped in the city of Pergamum included:

Asklepios (god of healing and medicine)

Athena (goddess of wisdom and war)

Dionysius/Bacchus (god of wine, pleasure and wild frenzy)

and Zeus (king of the gods, god of sky and thunder)

3 **COMMENDATIONS**

Even while living where Satan has his throne,

You've remained true to My name

You did not renounce your faith (consider 2:10)

Even when one of your pastors was burned alive

The mindset of the Apostle Paul (Rom. 1:16; Acts 20:22-24)

and the disciples in John 6:68-69

4 **VSS. 14-15 BUT, WAIT...**

- Some of you embrace the teaching of Balaam (See Numbers 22-25)

Included the use of seduction into sexual immorality, falsehood for financial gain, and pagan rituals. Rather than being aliens and strangers, believers compromised convictions to the point of being indistinguishable from the world.

- Some of you embrace the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

Included false teaching, abuse of grace, and licentiousness.

"There's nothing wrong with prudent conformity to the world..."

5 **SOME OF YOU...**

Wait, so the whole church is in trouble because of some?

Consider the sin of Achan

Joshua 7

Consider the NT response

1 Cor. 5:1-13; Titus 3:10

6 **VS. 16 THE COST OF COMPROMISE**

If they fail to repent,

they will be fighting against Christ himself. The One who bears the sharp, double-edged sword will come in judgment.

"...on this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it." Matt 16:18

7 **VSS. 17-18 THE VICTOR'S REWARD**

- The hidden manna: The true Bread, Jesus Christ (John 6:51)
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- The white stone: A reference to the Games, where the winner's got a white stone as their entry ticket to the victory celebration afterwards.
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- A new name: A personal name given by Christ to those He intimately knows and loves. In a sense, their 'admission' into glory.

8 **WHAT'S THIS HAVE TO DO WITH US?**

Consider how your convictions have changed on this random set of things:

Regularity in corporate worship

Sexual intimacy outside of marriage

Lying

Situational ethics

The definition of marriage (or its relevance)

The authority of Scripture

Living as an alien or stranger