

Summit Woods Baptist Church
Sermon Study Equipping Class

Revelation 2:12-17

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

Read Revelation 2:12-17.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

12a “And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write:

12b The One who has the sharp two-edged sword says this:

13a ‘I know where you dwell,

13b where Satan’s throne is;

13c and you hold fast My name,

13d and did not deny My faith

13e even in the days of Antipas,

13f My witness,

13g My faithful one,

13h who was killed among you,

13i where Satan dwells.

14a ‘But I have a few things against you,

14b because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam,

14c who kept teaching Balak

14d to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel,

14e to eat things sacrificed to idols

14f and to commit acts of immorality.

15a ‘So you also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

16a ‘Therefore repent;

16b or else I am coming to you quickly,

16c and I will make war against them

16d with the sword of My mouth.

17a ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

17b To him who overcomes, to him I will give some of the hidden manna,

17c and I will give him a white stone,

17d and a new name written on the stone

17e which no one knows but he who receives it.’

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1. Where was Pergamum? Does the NT mention this city/church anywhere else? What can you learn about this place historically during the time this letter was written?
2. Read Rev 1:12-16 again. Which of these descriptions is mentioned in the opening of the letter to Pergamum?
3. What does Jesus say he knows about the church in Pergamum?
4. What does it mean that Satan's throne was in Pergamum? How do you know? (cf. Matt 12:26, 16:23, Luke 4:6, Acts 26:18, 1 Pet 5:8)
5. Why do you think Satan is mentioned numerous times throughout the letters to the seven churches? (Rev 2:9, 10, 13, 24, 3:9)
6. What does it mean to "hold fast My name and not deny my faith"? (cf. Col 2:19, 2 Th 2:15, Heb 4:14, 6:18, **Rev 2:3, 14, 15, 25, 3:8, 11**)

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❖ Day 2

Read Revelation 2:12-17 again.

7. To what extent did this church persevere? (13e-i)

8. How would it have impacted this church to hear directly from the Lord Jesus that he knew about their perseverance and faithfulness?

9. How does it encourage you to know that the Lord knows what you're going through and how you have endured?

10. What does Jesus have against this church? (vv. 14-15)

11. Skim Numbers 22-24. Who was Balaam and what did he do?

12. Read Numbers 25:1-5, 2 Pet 2:15-16, and Jude 11, and Rev 2:14. What else was Balaam involved in besides what is contained in Num 22-24?

13. In light of v. 14, what were the false teachers in Pergamum teaching?

14. What did we learn about the Nicolaitans in Rev 2:6?

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❖ Day 3

Read Revelation 2:12-17 again.

15. What does Jesus call this church to do in light of what he has against them?

16. What is the warning that Jesus gives this church? Where else in Revelation is the sword of Jesus' mouth mentioned?

17. What does Jesus promise in v. 17? Who is this promise for?

18. What do these promises mean?

a. On manna see Deut 8:1-20 where manna is described as manna which they “did not know” and also John 6:26-65 where Jesus compares himself to manna.

b. On the white stone see Acts 26:10 the only other occurrence of this unique word for stone which is translated there as “vote” describing the ancient practice of voting using small pebbles – black for conviction/guilt, white for acquittal.

19. How would this promise have motivated the church in Pergamum? What action would they take to “overcome”?

20. How can you take the promises to each of these churches and believe them as a means of overcoming?

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21. Summarize Jesus' message to this church in 21 words or less.

22. What is the most poignant part of this letter for you?

In preparation for Sunday, pray that we would be a church that perseveres, that we would endure and hold fast to Jesus' name, not deny the faith, and not put up with false teaching.