

# Compromising in the face of Suffering and Persecution

by Emanuel Esh

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*This sermon delves into the message that Jesus gave to the church of Pergamos in Revelation chapter 2, highlighting the challenges of living in a morally compromised society and the need for repentance. It emphasizes the importance of not compromising with the idols of the world, standing firm in faith, and overcoming temptations. The sermon urges listeners to have ears to hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches and to be vigilant against the moral and political climates of the present day.*

**Duration:** 1:08:50

**Scripture:** Revelation 2:12, Revelation 2:16, Revelation 2:17, Matthew 11:15, Jeremiah 6:16, 1 John 5:4, Romans 12:2, 1 Corinthians 10:14, 2 Timothy 4:3

**Topics:** "Moral Compromise", "Spiritual Vigilance"

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## Description

This sermon delves into the message that Jesus gave to the church of Pergamos in Revelation chapter 2, highlighting the challenges of living in a morally compromised society and the need for repentance. It emphasizes the importance of not compromising with the idols of the world, standing firm in faith, and overcoming temptations. The sermon urges listeners to have ears to hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches and to be vigilant against the moral and political climates of the present day.

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## Transcript

Greetings in Jesus name. I know that it's the time of season of celebration for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ and I really enjoyed the singing this morning. I really enjoyed the service last Sunday where I felt like there was worship and honor given to the Lord Jesus Christ in that time.

And Aaron had asked me if I would preach the day and I got back to him and said, well I don't have a message about the birth of Christ this morning. Should I, would you have someone else preaching? He said no, he said he wanted me to go on. So I have something on my heart that I'd like to teach and preach this morning out of revelations.

I know that we are in the, it feels like we're in the end times as we walk through many things as a nation and as a church, politically, spiritually and so forth. So I want to look specifically at the message that the Lord Jesus gave to the angel of the church of Pergamos in Revelation chapter 2. You can turn there and let's read this scripture and then we'll move on into the message. So let's stand together as we read the

word of God that Jesus himself gave to this church.

Beginning to read in verse 12 of Revelations chapter 2. And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, these things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges. I know thy works and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is, and thou holdest fast my name and hast not denied my faith. Even in those days when Antipas was my faithful martyr who was slain among you where Satan dwelleth.

But I have a few things against thee because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam who taught Balak to cast the stumbling block before the children of Israel to eat things sacrificed unto idols and to commit fornication. So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans which thing I hate. Repent or else I will come unto thee quickly and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

He that hath an ear let him hear what the spirit saith unto the churches. To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna and will give him a white stone and in the stone a new name written which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it. Let's pray.

Heavenly Father, this is the word, your word, the words of Jesus from your holy book. And Father we come to you as mere mankind this morning yet you have called us to such a place of honor and glory and blessing through the life and death and resurrection of your son the Lord Jesus Christ who shed his blood and paid the price that we might be saved and that we might walk in holiness bringing you glory and honor and that being a demonstration of your mighty working power throughout the whole world both in heaven and in earth. So Father this morning grant us grace to be all that you are calling us to be.

Give us ears to hear Father what the spirit says to the churches even to this church today. Father I know that without your Holy Spirit we can do nothing and so I give my body to you to be used my voice my lips my tongue and my heart to demonstrate to speak forth the words of Christ and your heart and your burden to the churches today and to this church in Jesus name amen. You may be seated.

When I think of the Apostle John on the isle of Patmos in about the year 95 AD that would be about 60 years after Christ was crucified or 60 years after the beginning after Pentecost when the church first was formed there in the book of Acts and they continued on there and now the Apostle John who was Jesus closest friend and disciple he's still alive. All the other apostles had been martyred for the faith. John had escaped martyrdom they even had placed him in a vat of boiling oil and somehow miraculously he survived and so they banished him to this island in the Aegean Sea there which today is owned by Greece and there he was alone basically and there Jesus came to him and gave him this message to take it and give it to the seven churches in Asia.

We can have the picture of Asia up here. I want to give you some historical background to this church in Pergamos so that you can understand the situation that was there at the time. This is the Mediterranean Sea you see there or in between Greece and what is shown as Asia there is the Aegean Sea that is the Greek coastline and we have the island of Lesbos see if I can there is the island of Lesbos where we've been working and of course this is Greece over here and in the Jesus days this was called Asia and this was Asia minor you have Galatia there and so forth and this is where the Apostle Paul traveled much and taught and preached and the word of God was given there and there was churches planted in these cities there in that place.

We understand by the book of Acts that persecution broke out against the believers against the Christians soon after Pentecost and then that persecution continued on for many years until around the end of the

third century when Christianity was accepted as the official religion of Rome and became a part of the state and it's as I understand that is when the dark ages began and they went for a thousand years until around the 1500s again when the church rose up and recognized the error of being one with church and state and the separation was once again made in the 1500s there of church and state and revival came which has now gone around the whole world interesting but in the in those years of those 60 years of church life up to 1895 when this was written there was a lot of persecution for example Nero in the year like 64 AD there was a great fire in Rome and Nero was the the ruler of there in Rome and he blamed the fire on the Christians and in that way there was great persecution unleashed against them unprecedented maybe lights are bright up here but this is a picture of an arena filled with spectators and they would they would take the Christians and they would put them capture them and put them in in there and bring them out for sport to watch the animals the wild animals to eat them to tear them apart and this was what they spent their time doing this was their great delight these Roman people at this time Greeks or what have you and they would kill the Christians and slaughter them many many times you also notice that there's people hanging on these poles and they're burning they would dip them in tar and they would wrap them with some straw and then they would light them up and that was to be make light for the the people a light for the emperor's gardens at night and they would take the Christians to do that and the Christians suffered they suffered greatly in those days in about the year 95 when this was written this message was given to John Domitian was the ruler in Rome he was the emperor and he was demanding worship from the people and during this time there was the the idolatry was so entrenched for centuries in this area in this area of Asia especially we have Rome is over in this area over here in Italy Rome is where the emperor was but the this whole area was under the dominion of the emperor and he demanded the people by this time towards the end of his uh years Domitian there demanded emperor worship and he demanded the people to worship him and he had to make idols and statutes where people were supposed to bow down to them or in some way acknowledge them every time they would pass them and they were also supposed to take it just a little pinch of incense and offer it towards that idol or somehow the Christians of course were not willing to do that and so they suffered this idolatry was very much external and everyone could see what everyone else would do and when you were in a crowd and the crowd was was idolizing these idols or this emperor worship and you didn't do it it was very easy to see they didn't really care what the Christians believed in heart but they did care about what the Christians did outwardly or did not do until they suffered that was the spiritual climate this idolatry had been entrenched for centuries and they there were so many different gods they had so many different gods that anyone could have their own god and could talk about their god and so forth but they did not understand they thought the Christians were godless because they didn't have any gods small g and so there was a great persecution against them we also have this is a picture of a brass bull which they made to burn people in they used all and every kind of persecution or of wicked evil means and ways to kill people to not just to crucify them but they found many different ways to destroy people to kill the Christians and they would do this in front of the crowds of people watching them be tormented and killed and so one man came up with a the idea of a of a brass bull and they had a door in the side they would take the person and put him in there and stuff him into there in a certain way his his head would be up into the neck of the bull and they had they would force him in that way then they would light the fire and begin to slowly roast this man inside the brazen bull and they had even had special pipes in the in the head of the bull so that when the person would be screaming in agony it would sound like the bull was bellowing and the people gloried in that this was the spirit in the heart of the people of Rome at that time they they they they greatly enjoyed watching people suffer like that an antipas my faithful martyr this is the way it was said he died he refused to worship the emperor and because of that they took this man which was supposedly a leader of the church at Pergamos and they

put him into a brass bull like that and they burned him and killed him that way slowly letting the fire get hot that's the kind of persecution that the church was facing that's what the church in Pergamos was up against there was there in the city of Pergamos up on a hill which was off the sea at the Aegean Sea they had so many temples up on that hill so many to so many different gods they had major lots of big temples and lots of smaller ones the biggest one of them was this one this altar to Zeus this was a huge altar set up there in gleaming white and and there was almost always people there and there was a continual sacrifices made and smoke would hang out over that city continually and this went on for years and years and years and this seems like it this is when it refers to the Satan's seat it seemed that this may be what he was talking about but this is where Satan dwelt at that time Satan himself was living in this city this was his dwelling place and this was his seat and this altar seems to be the place that he was and there was people in those days who went to Pergamos and they just they took the gospel to that place to that city and there they were willing to lay down their lives that the gospel might be preached in that city called Pergamos and they knew they would suffer and many of them would die and somehow the church was still there 60 years after after Pentecost and this is what they were facing and and this is now the message that was brought to the angel of the church of Pergamos and to the angel of the church of Pergamos right these things say if he which hath the sharp sword with two edges and I want us to understand that when Jesus came when Jesus spoke this message to the church it says earlier there in in Revelation chapter 2 it says that when it says to the church at Ephesus he said these things say if he that holds the seven stars in his right hand who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks and so the picture there is that Jesus there's seven golden candlesticks there and Jesus himself is walking among those seven golden candlesticks which are the churches and so the picture is very clear that Jesus himself knew these churches very well he didn't just see them from a distance he was there in their midst and he walked in the midst of them we would like to believe that Jesus walks in the midst of this church as well but I wonder what does he see what does Jesus really see as he walks in the midst of this church let's look at what is happening here if we can to the angel of the church in Pergamos that word angel is angelus in the greek it means messenger quite uh agreed upon that it's talking about the leader of the church the bishop or the elder the one who is in the lead who has responsibility for the church is the one he's talking about this is Jesus is saying John I want you to write down this message and give it to the leader of the church at Pergamos the church the word for church is ecclesia I remember that from brother Daniel teaching that a long time ago and the word ek means separation and kaleo means to beckon to call to invite and when you put these two words together it means those who are called to a prestigious assembly and the backdrop of that comes right out of Greece there was there in Athens they had on Mars Hill they had a meeting place where the local people the local assembly was held and it was those who were called and those who were specifically chosen to meet in that place and they would meet weekly or monthly whatever it was and they were called the ecclesia they were specifically called to a prestigious assembly and this is the word that Paul has chosen to use or Jesus has chosen to use to express his body of believers the church and in that church in that in that body of believers in that body in that that ecclesia there in Greece there in Athens there was a specific several men who were called out they were called the bule and they were the ones who kind of oversaw this meeting and then they had one who was the moderator or the speaker and the speaker was the one that brought that would bring the message to them and to tell it to them of what it was what there was a talk about and he would bring a message maybe from the emperor from someone very important and he could he was not allowed to change the message whatsoever even if the message would not be acceptable among the people he was not allowed to change it whatsoever on his own this is the picture of the leader this is a picture of the one who was given authority to work to speak in that assembly and this message is to the angel the messenger the leader of the church in

Pergamos these things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges what if Jesus were to come and walk in our midst here at charity christian fellowship and then he would give a message to the leader here what would he say i believe that what Jesus would say to us as a church here it would be relevant to our current situation today it would we would all understand exactly what he's trying to say we would all know exactly what he's talking about he would probably talk about some of our past he might talk about some of the good things that we are doing or have done but he also would talk about some of our needs and areas of shortcoming right and i believe that we would all understand exactly what he's talking about when this message came to the church at Pergamos could i have a drink of water i believe that the church at Pergamos understood exactly what he was talking about and what and and the language that he used oh i'm sorry the language that he used would expressly they would expressly understand what he means by that and when Jesus identified himself as the one these this sayeth he which has a sharp sword with two edges Domitian who was the emperor at that time they would they would have men in areas like in the area of Asia there was there would be a man who would rule over certain areas in Asia maybe in the city and those men were called proconsuls and those men were over certain areas regions maybe government like a government of a state and if those men did not do exactly what this demented deranged emperor Demetian wanted them to do he would have them killed instantly without problem and so these men they lived to try to please the emperor in every way they could and it made them to be very harsh and wicked and evil and they would kill people under them around them because they feared someone taking over and they would just kill many of their own people and the sword was the tool that was used to rule and to reign it was well known that many people were dying by the sword by these this proconsul and a specifically one there in Pergamos and so when Jesus identified himself as the one with his sharp two-edged sword he spoke right into their present situation that they were facing he would he is the one who's sitting above all and his sword is the most important sword also the word sharp there is used that word sharp is the greek word o-x-u-s that denotes a medicinal cleanser sanitizing something that will attack infection maybe even anesthesia this was a part this what that word sharp means Jesus said I'm the one with a sharp sword and that sharpness means it's it actually does cleansing and so when Jesus says I am the one with the sharp sword with two edges not just a sword that kills but this sword also brings healing and cleansing where there is infection and the the when you think of the of infection in our bodies think of how COVID-19 infects our bodies and tries to take over but if there's a healthy body the body can fight off that infection but this is what he's talking about he's talking about the church in Pergamos and he's simply saying I have a sharp sword and and that means I can use it for cleansing and he's indicating that there is an infection there he goes on to say I know thy works where thou dwellest he knows everything I know everything that you're doing I know everything that you've been doing I know what has been done I know what has happened here I know your works I know that you are doing this I know you're reaching out I know where your ministries are I know how you're doing this I know your works he says I know everything about you and where you live even where satan's seat is he's acknowledging to them I know that you are living in a very difficult place I know you're living where satan himself is sitting the church this church in Pergamos would be comforted by those words he understands where we're living he understands our situation he realizes that yes satan is living here and it's difficult so that's what jesus will acknowledge to them and thou holds fast my name they continue to hold fast and that hold fast is a picture of someone gripping with all their strength and holding on you can take the picture of a tug of war and they grab a hold of that rope and they hold fast with all they have and jesus saying thou has held fast my name and you have not denied my faith even in the those days where an antibus my faithful martyr who was slain among you where satan dwells in twice in this verse he is recognizing that satan is not only sitting there but satan is actually living in this city and you the church have continued in the midst of that situation

you've continued to hold fast to my name and you've not left it go and you are whole you've held on to the faith you've not denied my faith not even when my faithful martyr was slain so when this began to happen and they took antiochus and they put him into that brazen bull and they fried him in there and they killed him in there and the christians knew about that and now jesus is coming and he's acknowledging that in the midst of this time you have not denied my faith you've not this did not cause you to turn away from me and that would have brought some comfort and encouragement to the body at that time recognizing that's where satan was dwelling but i have a few things against thee because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of phileas there are some in the midst of the church at pergamus that are holding fast the doctrine of balaam they're holding the doctrine of balaam and the doctrine of the nicolaitans so there's two things wrong two things that were happening here in the midst of this intense persecution there were some men in the church who were teaching the doctrine of balaam and there was those who also in the church who were teaching that were holding the doctrine of the nicolaitans which thing i hate jesus said now i most of us probably understand what the doctrine of balaam is right what is the doctrine of balaam someone tell me being destroyed from within okay let's go a little further on that intentionally causing someone to stumble into sin thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of balaam which taught balak to cast a stumbling block before the children of israel to eat things sacrificed unto idols and to commit fornication and so the doctrine of balaam is to cast a stumbling block or to cause people to fall that's the doctrine there and you can get a numbers chapter 23 24 and 25 to read about that story of balaam who was the that prophet was prophesying he was called by balak to come out and curse israel because he was afraid israel would take over his kingdom but balaam was not able to curse israel many many sacrifices were offered there they would meet up on the on this mountain and they would offer seven uh 12 uh build these altars and and offer bullocks on there on each one of them and what they would do in those days when they would offer these in the evil uh in that idolatrous way that sacrificial way that that sacrificing those animals in order to tell the future they would inspect the entrails the guts of that animal and would prophesy upon that would prophesy through that that was a normal thing whether balaam did that i'm not sure but he was unable to curse israel but then when they were about finished he did say something to be like that here's something i think you could do get your young women your immodest ladies to go over there and tempt the young men of israel and and to get them to commit fornication and to eat things sacrificed to idols and so the young women went over there and they they tempted the men of israel and they drew them away and had them and got them to eat meat that was sacrificed to the idols which was forbidden and to commit fornication with them and so the women went and they did that and the men of israel fell for that and so balaam must have understood that when the church goes into sin it loses god's blessing and through that a blessing was lost and a curse fell upon israel and 24 000 people died because of it that's the doctrine of balaam what about the doctrine of the nicolaitans does anyone know what is referred to there that was one that i had to study to search it out what is the doctrine of nicolaitans several points here one is that there's no emphasis on holy living or separation from the world you imagine this being taught in the church there's no emphasis on the doctrinal teachings of the bible there's no emphasis on absolute truth or absolute biblical morality no exclusionary belief that christ alone is the way to heaven in these days today there are many church leaders who are preaching a very soft gospel they are not emphasizing holy living they are not emphasizing a separation from the world and they're preaching a love gospel that jesus loves you god loves you and god's going to take you to heaven all these wonderful good things to tickle the ears of the people but this is a part of the doctrine of the nicolaitans which jesus says i hate it no emphasis on doctrinal teaching just very light fluffy surface in a time when when no answers on the absolute truth or absolute biblical morality very prevalent today in our society this nation is at the place where you know there's no real absolute truth it doesn't really there's no place that you can say this is what truth is no truth

is flexible today truth is this and truth is that it's the uh i had a little bit of the challenge come up with understanding what it's all about when you talk about the uh inclusiveness or the x exclusiveness or of the toleration today the the the theme out there is toleration we just tolerate everything and the general thought is just everybody should tolerate everybody else right there's toleration there is no absolute truth anymore there is no absolute biblical morality there's who is to say that it's wrong to have sex before you're married that that's not that doesn't matter anymore no absolute morality no absolute truth no the bible's very clear on this there is absolute truth and we have absolute moral standards but when that is broken down in a nation there's such decay that comes in and this is this was the situation in rome in those days there was such perversion centuries of perversion centuries of idolatry the greeks would train their young men in nakedness it was such a naked society even today when you go travel through greece you see these statues right in the middle of the parks and most of them are naked and that was their that was their religion that was their paganism their their ideals their eye it was they were just lifting up the nakedness and of immorality and of mankind it was just awful situation no absolute truth didn't matter anymore the only thing about those who have say you know everything goes uh tolerance your toleration to all things and everybody will just tolerate everybody the one thing they did not tolerate in this system there in rome was those who believed in jesus christ being the only way oh no there's more than one way to go no no no no there's only one way the christians said and they had no toleration for the christians because of that toleration except when it comes to living the life of jesus christ there is there was no toleration for that and i believe that we are coming very close to that very same thing today if you would dare to stand up and proclaim these things in the years to come maybe even now in some places there is no toleration repent and he's speaking to the leader of the church and also i will come unto thee quickly and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth he's calling the leader of the church to repentance or he will come quickly and fight against them with the sword of my mouth that have these doctrines with the sword of his mouth i think back with joy back around in 2001 when effort was started and we were a small church here and drew together in fellowship and love and care we as a church we spent three days in fasting and prayer and during that time we felt like the spirit of god spoke to us and if you were here at that time not very many of you do you remember what happened we as the leaders felt like we as a church had sinned and we specifically identified that sin and we made confession to the whole church i remember it so clearly i'm standing back there and somehow the burden of this fell on our hearts as leaders and we began to express our heart and we we repented we we led the congregation to repentance of this and something happened revival broke out for several weeks the spirit of god came making a minister of life as we took as we humbled ourselves and acknowledged our sin and allowed the holy spirit allowed the lord jesus to come with that cleansing sword and to begin to begin to cleanse i think back to those days with great joy how i long for more of that repent or i will come quickly and fight against you with the sword of my mouth and this this word sword there is the word rampia and that is a very unique tool which they it's a long handled sickle with a curved sickle at the end it's a it's sharp on both sides but it's got a long handle which was actually uh first it seemed like it was first was first made in asia here and was used in their fighting against the romans way earlier on in their major battles and they had the advantage because in in those days you fought with a sword hand-to-hand combating close by but these this army came up with this new tool called the rumpia which had a long handle and on that hand with a sharp sickle and they they could take that and thrust it into the into the enemy ranks before they ever got close enough to hit him with the sword and it was a hacking thing they could do this back and forth like a a hacking thing and this is what this word rampia means jesus is saying repent quickly repent or i will come unto you quickly and fight against you with the sword of my mouth fight against them those who are holding this doctrine of balaam and nicolaitans i will come and fight against you and this is the the picture that is used and it seems like

this rumpia this sword was actually native to this area and they would have known exactly what he means by it and then he goes on and says he that hath an ear let him hear what the spirit saith unto the churches jesus many times in his ministry on the earth used the similar words he that hath ears to hear let him hear and here in this last message the churches jesus is once again using this saying he that has an ear to hear let him hear and i wonder if we have ears to hear what the spirit is saying to the churches am i able to hear do i have an ear let me see your hand do you have ears to hear let me let me do that again do you have ears let me see your hands do you have ears to hear you want to i want to hear too he that hath an ear to hear let him hear what the spirit is saying to the churches is it important to hear what the spirit is saying to the churches i believe it's paramount especially it has always been but in these last days in these end times we need to be hearing listening to what the spirit of the lord is saying our life is so very different than the believers in pergamos in the year 95 ad right is there anyone in this room that has physically suffered persecution i know we've say we've suffered mentally emotionally probably from being mistreated and and shunned and all this but that is so minor we know so little we are unprepared in that sense but this whole picture to the church of pergamos was compromised it's known as the church that was compromising and the situation where these people were living jesus came to them and said you guys have been compromising and there were men in this church who were teaching that it's okay to offer just a little pinch of incense to that idol so that you don't have to be burned in that in the fire you don't need to be taken out there and fed to the wild beasts when you walk past that idol just nod your head a little bit you'll still get to go to heaven you'll still get to be with jesus for eternity compromise just compromise a little bit with the i doubt they would say it in those words but the people were suffering and they were teaching that it's going to be it's okay to just yield a little bit and this is where jesus comes in and says repent or i will come quickly unto you either have an ear let him hear what the spirit says to the churches to him that overcometh the one who overcomes the one who does not compromise the one who does not give in the one who does not deny the one who stands in the face of all kinds of things no matter what they throw at him no compromise i saw a picture of one young lady standing there in the doorway men were sitting here the soldiers where she's standing in the doorway a picture of godliness and holiness and outside of that doorway was the arena of the lions and in the background you could see them standing up there you could see the people in the arena and they would do this for over their lunch hour they would meet together there and have some kind of a sport there and they would take the christians out there to be devoured by an animal and a picture of this serene young girl standing there resolution on her face knowing that she's going to be taken out there and be made sport with in front of the thousands of people that day no compromise this is the arena there in pergamos you can still see it today to him that overcomes until death i'm going to give you rewards he says i will give them i will give you to eat of the hidden manna i will feed you with eternal life i will strengthen you with the word of god i will strengthen you with the hidden manna i know in the wilderness that god sent down manna to feed his children to feed his people there but now he says to those who ever come he said i'm going to give you the hidden manna and that manna when they first tasted it they said it's like angels food it was sweet to their taste and they did they delighted in it did you ever stop and consider how much manna rained down upon them daily approximately three million people that's a good guess maybe there were six hundred thousand men twenty years and older in the wilderness with mooses there at probably at least three million souls and they would be given manna every day six days a week and on the sixth day they were given in twice as much for the seventh day and each one was to get was to gather an omer of manna for each person in the family probably about three pounds per person per day do the multiplication someone tell me how many tons of manna would be falling on every day and god says the church in pergamos to him that overcomes i i will give him to eat of the hidden manna i think there was 6500 tons of food per day tons of manna per

day is that what it comes to 6500 tons of manna per day to feed three million people is that right what you come up with nine thousand tons three million nine million pounds anyhow look at it think about it to him that overcometh i will give to eat of the hidden manna and i will also give to him a white stone and in that stone a name written which no man knows except he that receiveth it to him that overcomes i will give to him a white stone i wonder what picture what you see in that picture jesus says i'm going to come i'm going to come to this person that overcomes i'm going to give him a white stone and in that stone is a name written which no one knows but him that receives it it is a personal that's the right word from jesus himself with a name specific personal this is a very personal thing a personal reward that jesus is going to be giving to him that overcomes i think of the the olympics originated in greece and they would give to those those runners who overcame those runners who won the race they would give them rewards we would we call it medals today today it's gold they give a golden medal to that person who won and that person walks up and the official comes out and he gives him that reward that medal of highest honor he's the one who won he's the one who overcame all the other people he didn't fall he didn't trip he kept on going he had trained himself to endure to the end and he got a medal and now jesus says to him that overcomes i am going to give him a white stone in that stone a name written which no man knows except he that receives it highest honors when they all of these points every single piece that jesus spoke the church in pergamos was relevant to them they understood it it brought pictures into their minds when he spoke them they knew exactly what he would have meant i believe it was a great encouragement to that church in pergamos that day at that time and this message was given to the bishop the angel the leader of that church to take it and give it to the congregation do you think he changed it you think he did some changes on it you think he softened up a little bit i don't think so we're pretty far removed from the church in pergamos it will be it will be disappointing to go home today and just talk about this message if we did not make some kind of applications and this last part i would like to for you to tell me for you to help me understand we looked a little bit at the political picture that this church was living in we looked at the moral climate around them we looked at the worship of idols and their worship in those days what is in this what is facing this church today what is the moral climate what is the political climate around us today what are the idols that bombard this society and maybe we don't even recognize it what are the idols of america today what are the idols that americans are worshiping someone tell me what are they identity money entertainment have it your way deception vain fame live it up you only live once so live it up self self yes preserve myself take care of myself make myself famous all those type of things how are we treating those who are famous what do we do with them do we worship them what about the stars what about the music stars what about the sports stars does it border on idolatry have we compromised are we compromising am i compromising am i giving them worth am i allowing myself to be drawn aside to that world of entertainment and sports am i willing to make application am i willing to write down but if we're going to identify the challenges that we the church have we must identify what's in the political scene you might say we must identify what is in the moral scene and what is in the idolatrous scene what is this world idolizing what are the people out there in the world sinners pagans what are they idolizing we mentioned some things but reality is what is the reality what are they really idolizing what is the political scene am i involved in the political scene to where my heart gets all bent out of shape when the elections are finalized am i getting all bent out of shape because of what i think might happen with the new president what he might do i'm allowing that to cause fear into my heart and light the church in pergamos if you could choose to live in pergamos or live here where would you choose we like our society we like our lifestyle pretty well don't we but do we understand the dangers do we understand the compromise that is happening all around us and surely within us if we want but we must identify those things for the church in it was not so difficult to identify the idolatry it was all around them they stood out like sore thumbs they were they they

were singled out because they would not nod to that idol they wouldn't give any they wouldn't take a little pinch of incense and offer it to as incense to the emperor and the lions were right outside the door and they would take that person and say if you just do this little pinch you won't need to go out there but that's not the situation today i won't be taken to slaughterhouse i won't be taken out there to be made sport of by the animals in front of the myriads of people in the auditorium in the in the arena that's not what happens to me today and so the lions are not as clearly drawn are they it's much more oh it's about individual no i no i i can do this and you know i'm fine i mean i don't want to tell you you should do it but i have no conviction against it we must identify the idols of america today whether it's fame whether it's money whether it's power prestige whether it's the time i spend on my phone watching movies and and idols and i i just i don't feel good about watching all the big football games big ball games and getting all involved in those i don't feel good about those things number one it's a waste of time and it's drawing the heart into the world becoming one with it and the compromise of just living it up oh what i want whatever i want to do no one has the right to tell me these things no it's it's not an absolute truth we can we can do these things we're okay if we're going to be serious about compromise we must identify the time we're living in must identify the moral climate we're living in where there's many churches who have accepted this toleration thing oh we have to tolerate everybody even if they come in professing to be the immorality that is prevalent in the world today homosexuality and all those things well you can't tell them no you have to accept them where they are have to love them yeah let them come into holy communion yeah teach them how to live a holy life and it may come soon sooner than we realize where there will be government intervening enforcing these things the agenda they have is well laid and they're out to push it if i if i in my personal life compromise on numerous little issues how will i stand against the big ones what's that verse in the old testament if the footmen weary you how will you race run with the chariots if the small things deter you at the small things if you're compromising the small things how are you going to live when the chariots how are you going to run with the chariots you're not going to be that hath ears to hear let him hear and that means not just allow sound to go into your through this your earlobes it means a lot more than just hearing sounds he that hath ears to hear it means you actually have a heart that is in such a posture that you are able to hear what the spirit is saying to the churches you're receiving it in your heart and you're doing something with it you're making the application i want to walk in such a way all the days of my life can we stand together for prayer our father lord in heaven i'm crying out to your father to give us ears to hear really hearing what the spirit is saying to this church today not only what the spirit was saying the churches in in asia but or the church at pergamos but to really hear what the spirit of the lord is saying to the church here at charity christian fellowship lord i ask for a blessing on the elder the leader grant him grace to carry the responsibility by your grace father and those men who are being called to help lead out may you bless them lord may your grace rest upon them they would not find this to be an overwhelming burden but rather they would walk in the grace of our lord jesus administrating and carrying out the word of god doing the will of god being an example to the believers and then father to the congregation to the assembly those who are called out to a prestigious assembly those who are especially called by jesus christ himself to be a part of this of the assembly the body of jesus christ i pray a blessing i pray father for your holy spirit to bring conviction to hearts lord grant us the church ears to hear and a heart to understand and boldness to declare it and to lead the way in repentance that is needed lord we need to hear grant us this grace that cry out through jesus in jesus name that wonderful name amen

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