

ASIA-MINOR

Pergamon
Thyatira
Smyrna
Sardis
Ephesus
Philadelphia
Laodicea
Patmos



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Letters to the 7 Churches

Lenten Lunch –
3/15/2022

Letter to the Church in Pergamum

About 55 miles north from Smyrna

Approximately 15 miles from the Aegean coast, situated in the valley of the River Caicus

The summit of a steep hill was crowned with an immense altar to Zeus

The worship of the god of healing, Aesculpius, was headquartered there



Pergamum



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Revelation 2:12-17

¹²“And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: ‘The words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword. ¹³“‘I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. ¹⁴But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality. ¹⁵So also you have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans. ¹⁶Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth. ¹⁷He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.’

ESV Bibles. ESV Prayer Bible (p. 2932). Crossway. Kindle Edition.

Gold on the Surface

- What is significant about the description of Christ in v. 12?
- Why is it comforting for Jesus to know where they live (v. 13)?
- What is commended? What is reprimanded? What is commanded?
- How do we make sense of the promise given?

Digging Deeper

- ❖ To what does the “teaching of Balaam” refer? (*see* Num. 22-25; 31:16)
- ❖ What was the “stumbling block”?
- ❖ What is “the sword of my mouth”?

Moving Forward by Faith

- † How important is the Truth of God's Word to us?
- † How might we work together to be aware and resist compromising God's truth in our church and in our lives?
- † Does the anticipation of the great wedding banquet in heaven motivate you to live differently here and now?
- † How does fasting increase our hunger for the things of God?