



Resources

- Watch or listen to Sunday's sermon: abfboone.com/sermons
- Find Life Group resources: abfboone.org/groups/resources

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. [14] But 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. [15] So also you have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans. [16] Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth. [17] He 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.'

Sermon Outline:

1. The Angel of the Church of Pergamum (12)
2. The Self-Description of Christ (12)
3. The Commendation of the Church (13)
4. The Correction of the Church (14-15)
5. The Call to Repentance (16)
6. The Call to Hear the Spirit (17)
7. The Promise to the Overcomers (17)

Life Group Leader Notes:





- The letter to Pergamum is the third letter that we have studied. As we are beginning to see, each letter has a similar structure, but the details are different depending on the circumstances. What unique details stuck out in this letter?
- Jesus is identified as the one with the *sharp two-edged sword* (12). This image also comes up in Revelation 19:11-15, Ephesians 6:17, and Hebrews 4:12. Is it surprising that the Word of God is described as a double-edged sword? What does this teach us about the Word of God? Is this how you approach the Word of God?
- Pastor Scott took an aside to talk about Satan. He quoted Martin Luther by saying that Satan is “God’s Satan.” Satan can only accomplish what God will allow him to accomplish. Similarly, Satan is not omni-present. He can only be in one place at a time. Why is it important for us to have an accurate, biblical picture of our adversary? (Consider looking at 2 Corinthians 2:11).
- We do not know much about Antipas, but Jesus includes his epitaph: he was a faithful witness who killed among you. Many suggest that he was the first martyr from the Pergamum church. If Jesus were to write your epitaph today, what would it say? What do you want it to say?
- Pastor Scott suggested that the teaching of Balaam was the tolerance of sexual immorality in the church. On first glance, Balaam looks like an admirable figure for refusing to curse the Israelites. But he carries a negative reputation in the rest of Scripture because he encouraged the Israelites to sin with the Moabite women. Where do you see this type of sexual immorality in the church of Jesus? How should the leaders of the church guard against this type of stumbling block?
- The Ephesian church stood for truth but had lost their first love. Pastor Scott wondered if the Pergamum church stood for “love” but had lost the truth. If this is the case, we see a very similar pattern at play in the American church. Why is it tempting for churches to embrace this message of love? Why must the church proclaim a message of love & truth?
- What would happen to the church if they refused to repent? In light of the return of Christ (who carries a double-edged sword), what is the loving thing to do?

