



# LESSONS FROM THE 7 CHURCHES OF REVELATION: PERGAMUM & THYATIRA

(REVELATION 2:12-29)

## SERMON NOTE

Revelation is addressed to first-century churches in seven cities of the Roman province of Asia (now western Turkey). Jesus sent his revelation to John to fortify His churches to resist the wiles of the devil, whether in the form of intimidating violence, deceptive heresy or beguiling wealth.

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### I) The church at Pergamum (Rev 2:12-17)

#### A) The City of Pergamum:

- 1) Was famous for its civilization and learning. Pergamum boasted a library center, a large theater, pool, medical building, an agora, a palace, various temples, the striking remains of which may still be seen.
- 2) Contained the first temple in Asia dedicated to a Roman Emperor, Augustus, in 29 b.c.
- 3) Was home to the pagan cults of Zeus, Athena, and other false deities. The city possessed a commanding position on a hill high above the valley. An altar of Zeus was situated in the acropolis. (The central citadel in a Greek city built atop the highest hill in the area) The large altar area may be that referred to by the Lord as "Satan's throne" (**Rev 2:13**).

#### B) The church's Testimony (2:13).

- 1) They honored the name of Jesus above all others.
- 2) They refused to deny their faith even after a public example of persecution

#### C) Their Failings (2:14-15).

- 1) They began to embrace corrupting influences.
  - a) Baalam was a fallen prophet of God who was willing to compromise his faith and principles for personal gain (**2 Pet 2:12-15; Num 22-25; 31**).
  - b) Nicolaitans. Very little is known about them, but the Lord clearly "hated their deeds" (**Rev 2:6**).

#### D) We must courageously maintain and demonstrate absolute loyalty to the Gospel of Jesus Christ (**Rom 16:17-19**).

#### E) What They Needed To Do To Survive (2:16).

- 1) Repent

## My Sermon Notes

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### II) The church at Thyatira (Rev 2:18-29).

#### A) The City of Thyatira

- 1) Although never a magnificent city, Thyatira was the center of a number of trade guilds that used the natural resources of the area to make it a very profitable city.
- 2) These guilds were famous for dealing in dye's, metals and fine fabrics. Lydia, was a native of Thyatira (**Acts** 16:14-15). She probably was a member of a guild there that dealt in purple dye.
- 3) Guilds celebrated their patron deities in periodic festivals, so Christians may have been tempted toward the message of a "prophetess" who advocated participation in cult-based sexual immorality and food sacrificed to idols.

#### B) The church's Testimony (2:19).

- 1) They were full of works of love, faith and service.
- 2) They also displayed faithful loyalty as they patiently endured.
- 3) They refused to be stagnant as they surpassed the works of the past and had excelled in their service for the Kingdom.

#### C) Their Failings (2:20).

- 1) They became indifferent towards false religions.
- 2) They begin to sympathize and tolerate a false teacher.
- 3) Thyatira was facing the danger of redefining the Gospel message and the identity of *Lord's* church (Jude).

#### D) What They Needed To Do To Survive (2:21-25).

- 1) Repent
- 2) Hold fast until He comes
- 3) Love Truth more than societal norms (**1 Cor** 10:13-22).