**First Baptist Church of Columbus**

**Dr. Paul Large, Pastor**

**Sermon Notes Outline for video posted October 11, 2020**

**T I T L E: THE COMPROMISING CHURCH**

**T E X T: Revelation 2:12-17**

**I. THE COMPROMISING CHURCH SUBJECTS ITSELF TO THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD.**

The One who has the sharp two-edged sword says this: reference to the Lord and to the word of God.

A. This is a warning and a reference to the Lord and His wielding of the word and speaks of potential discipline and/or judgment in the household of God.

**Hebrews 4:12, 1 Peter 4:17**

The word of the Lord to Jeremiah may very well be applicable to the church in Pergamum as well as the church of today.

**Jeremiah 1:12**

B. This is a contemporary warning meaning that it is just as valid now as it was then, primarily because the Christ of yesteryear is also the Christ of today.

**Hebrews 13:8; Malachi 3:6**

C. This is a warning prompted by the fact that the **CHURCH** at Pergamum was adapting, perhaps incrementally, to the ways of its culture which, in John’s day as well as our day, was being influenced by **worldliness** guided by Satan himself.

**Revelation 2:14–15 (**See Numbers 20-22)

**ARE PEOPLE GOOD BY NATURE?**  Survey conducted by Ligonier Ministries and Lifeway Research called The State of Theology

Unless we understand the depth of our sin, we likely won't recognize our need for God's saving grace. Sadly, the results from our 2020 State of Theology survey uncovers widespread confusion among Christians in America about the reality and effects of sin. Conducted in partnership with Lifeway Research, the full results of this survey are now available.

According to our recent findings, 46 percent of professing U.S. evangelicals agree with the following statement: **"Everyone sins a little, but most people are good by nature."** This idea cannot be reconciled with the emphatic teaching of Scripture that all people are radically corrupted sinners in need of salvation (Rom. 3:23). Even the smallest sin is high treason against our Creator, leaving us hopeless of escaping His judgment apart from His mercy in Christ.

**Lesson about worldliness**: Worldliness comes to the church in a subtle fashion and is often couched in statements that sound biblical and correct.

D. This is also a warning to the church that false teaching or belief in the body of Christ prompts the ire of the Lord and should not be tolerated by those rooted in sound doctrine. Verse 13

It is possible that what prompted the ire of the Lord in the church at Pergamum was the possibility that false teaching was being tolerated, not corrected.

**II. THE COMPROMISING CHURCH OFTEN PRACTICES CIRCUMSTANTIAL CHRISTIANITY.**

**...BECAUSE TO THEM SITUATIONAL ETHICS AND MORALS ARE A MATTER OF CULTURAL CIRCUMSTANCES RATHER THAN CHRISTIAN CHARACTER.**

A. While it is true that it may be more difficult to be a Christian in some circumstances than in others it is never true that certain circumstances prevent us from being Christ-like because being Christ-like is not a matter of circumstances but a matter of character.

William Barclay — “To be a Christian in Pergamum was to face what Oliver Cromwell, the Lord Protector of England would have called ‘an engagement very difficult.’ ”

The excuse, You simply do not understand my circumstances is a boat that won’t float.

Antipas... means against many or against all “...my witness, my faithful one...”

**Hebrews 11:35–38**

B. The most difficult place to be Christ-like for some rather than others is not necessarily an obvious place of debauchery but a place of friendship, fellowship and acceptance where Christianity is not necessarily rejected but needed but not welcomed when it is introduced.