

EXPERIENCING COMPROMISE

(Rev. 2:12-17)

- I. The Address (Rev. 2:12)
 - A. To the *angelos* (“MESSENGER” or *angel*) of the CONGREGATION at Pergamum
 - 1. Home of the TEMPLE and HOSPITAL of Asculapius
 - a. Represented by SERPENT entwined around a pole
 - b. Source of word “SCALPEL”
 - Pergamum was also the...
 - 2. Home of the LARGEST altar in the world, to ZEUS
 - 3. Home of the great TEMPLE to Caesar AUGUSTUS
 - B. From the One who has the SWORD, the TWO-EDGED one, the SHARP one
 - 1. Symbol of AUTHORITY greater than ROME’S
 - 2. Representation of the WORD of GOD (Heb. 4:12)
 - a. An instrument of SALVATION for BELIEVERS
 - b. An instrument of DESTRUCTION for UNBELIEVERS
- II. The Commendation (Rev. 2:13)
 - A. Christ KNEW their PERIL: Living “where Satan’s THRONE is”
 - 1. Probably referred to center of PAGAN WORSHIP
 - a. Ancient center was BABYLON
 - b. Contemporary center was PERGAMUM
 - c. Current center is (probably) ROME
 - 2. Possibly referred to actual center of SATANIC ACTIVITY
 - B. Christ KNEW their STEADFASTNESS
 - 1. They held to His NAME
 - 2. They were DOCTRINALLY SOUND
 - 3. They had not FALTERED when Antipas was MARTYRED

III. The Condemnation (Rev. 2:14-15)

- A. They TOLERATED the “TEACHING of Balak” (cf. Num. 22-25, 31)
 - 1. Permitting IDOLATRY
 - a. Possibly participation in pagan RITUALS
 - b. Possibly conformity with pagan LIFESTYLE
 - 2. Permitting SEXUAL IMMORALITY, or perhaps INTERMARRIAGE with UNBELIEVERS
- B. They TOLERATED the “TEACHING of the Nicolaitans” (cf. Rev. 2:6)
 - 1. Possibly connected with Nicholas of ANTIOCH, a proponent of IMMORALITY
 - 2. Probably related to meaning of *nicolaitane*: “CONQUEST of the PEOPLE” or “RULERS of the LAITY”

IV. The Warning (Rev. 2:16)

- A. Command to REPENT: A radical change of MIND and ATTITUDE resulting in changed BEHAVIOR
- B. Promised to deal with it HIMSELF if they DIDN'T
 - 1. “I AM COMING to you QUICKLY [suddenly]”
 - 2. “I will MAKE WAR against THEM”
 - a. He will PRESERVE those who are HIS
 - b. He will DESTROY the DEFILERS

V. The Encouragement (2:17)

- A. Those who CAN must (or SHALL) HEAR
- B. “Overcomers” (TRUE believers) will be BLESSED (cf. 1 John 5:4)
 - 1. Will EAT of the HIDDEN MANNA: Representing CHRIST and SPIRITUAL sustenance
 - 2. Will receive a WHITE STONE with a new NAME inscribed
 - a. Represents legal ruling of ACQUITTAL
 - b. Represents identification with CHRIST in ETERNITY