

## **Going Deeper Study Guide**

### **Revelation 2:12–17 — “Hold Fast His Name”**

#### **Main Truth:**

Christ walks among His churches with authority, knows where His people dwell, and calls His people to steadfast faithfulness without compromise.

#### **Opening Prayer**

Ask God:

- To expose areas of compromise
- To deepen your love for His Word
- To help you hold fast to Christ’s name
- To give courage to obey where repentance is needed

#### **Read the Passage Slowly**

Read:

- Revelation 2:12–17
- John 17:1–11
- Deuteronomy 6:4–9
- Hebrews 4:12
- Numbers 25:1–9
- Matthew 18:15–20

#### **Section 1: The Sword-Bearing Christ**

Jesus introduces Himself as the One with the sharp two-edged sword. This is not random imagery. It reminds the church that Christ rules His church through His Word.

#### **Reflect:**

1. Why does Jesus introduce Himself differently to different churches?
2. What does the sword communicate about Christ’s authority?
3. How is God’s Word comforting and confronting at the same time?
4. Why is precision important when dealing with sin and doctrine?

## **Dig Deeper:**

Read Hebrews 4:12–13.

- What does Scripture expose?
- Why do we sometimes resist the “cutting” work of Scripture?
- When have you experienced God’s Word correcting or comforting you?

## **Key Thought:**

The sword is not merely information. It is God actively speaking to His people.

## **Section 2: Living Where Satan Dwells**

Pergamum existed in a place saturated with paganism, emperor worship, and spiritual compromise. Yet Jesus says, “I know where you dwell.” He was not absent from their difficulty.

## **Reflect:**

1. What pressures toward compromise exist in your culture?
2. Where do you feel pressure to stay quiet about your faith?
3. Why is it encouraging that Jesus says, “I know where you dwell”?

## **Personal Inventory:**

Finish these statements:

- I am tempted to compromise when \_\_\_\_\_.
- I fear standing apart when \_\_\_\_\_.
- I tend to seek acceptance from \_\_\_\_\_ more than Christ when \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Consider:**

Antipas remained faithful even unto death. The church remained faithful under persecution but struggled with compromise internally. Why is compromise often more dangerous than persecution?

### **Section 3: Holding Fast His Name**

The sermon emphasized the word *krateo* — to grasp firmly, cling tightly, persevere. The church held fast Christ’s name but simultaneously tolerated contradictory teaching. That tension is the heart of the warning.

#### **Questions:**

1. What does it practically look like to “hold fast”?
2. Why is confession alone insufficient if compromise is tolerated?
3. What is the difference between loving sinners and tolerating false teaching?

#### **Cross References:**

- John 6:67–69
- Acts 4:12
- Jude 3–4
- James 4:4

#### **Write It Out:**

Complete:

“Holding fast to Christ means I must let go of \_\_\_\_\_.”

### **Section 4: Balaam, Compromise, and the Danger of “Gray Areas”**

The issue was not simply false teachers existing—it was the church tolerating what Christ opposed. Balaam could not destroy Israel externally, so corruption came internally through compromise.

#### **Ask:**

- Where am I tempted to say:
  - “It’s not that serious.”
  - “Everyone else does it.”
  - “It’s easier to stay quiet.”

#### **Examine:**

Consider these categories:

## **Doctrine**

- Do I know what I believe?
- Am I careless with truth?

## **Entertainment**

- What shapes my thinking more: Scripture or culture?

## **Relationships**

- Do relationships ever pressure me toward compromise?

## **Church Life**

- Am I committed to biblical unity or merely avoiding conflict?

## **Section 5: Christ Calls His Church to Repentance**

Notice who receives the command: **the church**. Repentance is corporate as well as personal. Christ's concern is not merely private holiness but the purity of His people together.

### **Questions:**

1. Why is repentance a grace and not merely a rebuke?
2. Why is church discipline connected to love?
3. How can churches drift toward tolerance in unhealthy ways?

### **Repentance Exercise:**

Write:

### **Sin/Compromise I Need to Kill:**

### **Truth I Need to Believe:**

### **Action Step This Week:**

## **Section 6: The Promises to the Conqueror**

Jesus gives two promises:

## **Hidden Manna**

→ Christ Himself as sustaining provision.

## **White Stone with a New Name**

→ Acceptance, acquittal, belonging, and transformation.

## **Reflect:**

1. Why are future promises important for present faithfulness?
2. How does knowing you are kept by God help you persevere?
3. Which promise stands out to you most right now?

## **Family Worship Guide**

### **Read Together:**

Revelation 2:12–17

### **Discuss:**

### **For Younger Kids:**

- What does it mean to hold onto Jesus?
- Why is God's Word important?
- Should Christians follow the crowd?

### **For Older Kids/Teens:**

- What compromises tempt people your age?
- Why is truth important even when unpopular?
- What does courage look like at school or with friends?

### **Family Activity:**

Take a rope or ribbon.

Have one person hold tightly to one end while others gently pull.

Talk about:

**“Holding fast to Jesus does not mean He might let go. We hold Him because He first holds us.”**

## **Pray Together:**

- Pray for courage
- Pray for holiness
- Pray for wisdom
- Pray for faithfulness

## **Final Reflection**

This sermon carried both warning and comfort:

**Warning:** compromise corrupts slowly.

**Comfort:** Christ knows where His people dwell and keeps those who belong to Him.

One sentence summary:

*The church that holds fast to Christ must also cut away compromise through the Word of God.*