

## **The Seven Churches: Pergamum**

### **Revelation 2:12–17**

#### **“Hold Fast His Name”**

#### **Main Idea:**

Christ knows where His church dwells, preserves His people in hostile places, and calls His church to reject compromise by holding fast to His Word and His Name.

#### **Introduction: Kept in His Name**

#### **John 17:1–11**

Before Christ ascended, He prayed that His people would be:

- Kept in the Father’s name
- Kept in His Word
- Kept in unity
- Kept while living in the world

This connects directly to Pergamum. Christ’s church is not removed from difficult places—it is kept within them.

#### **Key Truth:**

We hold fast because Christ first holds us.

#### **I. The Sword-Bearing Christ (Revelation 2:12)**

“The words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword.”

Christ introduces Himself according to what His church needs.

Pergamum needed reminding:

- Christ rules His church through His Word

- Christ carries authority
- Christ judges rightly
- Christ protects His bride

## **The Sword Is the Word of God**

Supporting Texts:

- II Timothy 3:16–17
- Hebrews 4:12
- Revelation 1:16

The Word:

- Teaches
- Corrects
- Trains
- Defends
- Exposes
- Matures believers

## **Characteristics of the Sword:**

### **1. Authority**

God speaks and creation responds.

### **2. Precision**

The Word cuts exactly where needed.

### **3. Defense**

Protects against false doctrine.

### **4. Offense**

Destroys worldly thinking and sin.

**Application:**

If Scripture is our sword, neglecting Scripture leaves us vulnerable.

**II. Hold Fast Christ's Name (Revelation 2:13–15)**

“You hold fast my name...”

Pergamum lived in a city saturated with:

- Pagan worship
- Emperor worship
- Cultural pressure
- Religious compromise

Yet Jesus says:

“I know where you dwell.”

Christ knows:

- Your pressures
- Your temptations
- Your suffering
- Your location

He has not forgotten His church.

**What Does “Hold Fast” Mean?**

The word communicates:

- Grasp firmly
- Persevere
- Cling tightly
- Remain under control

Examples:

- Peter: “Where else would we go?” (John 6:68)
- Antipas remaining faithful unto death
- Christ’s people clinging to His covenant promises

### **The Danger of Compromise**

Pergamum held fast Christ’s name while tolerating:

- Balaam’s teaching
- Nicolaitan teaching
- False worship
- Moral compromise

The problem:

They were holding Christ AND compromise.

But:

You cannot hold Christ’s name and contradictory teaching with the same hands.

### **III. Balaam and the Danger of Internal Corruption**

#### **Numbers 25; Numbers 31:16**

Balaam recognized:

External attack would fail.

Internal compromise would work.

Israel was tempted through:

- Idolatry
- Immorality

- Convenience
- Cultural acceptance

Pergamum repeated this error.

### **Life in the Gray Area**

Compromise often sounds like:

- “It’s not a big deal.”
- “Everyone does it.”
- “We just want peace.”
- “It’s easier.”

Compromise rarely announces itself loudly.

It usually arrives gradually.

## **IV. Christ Calls His Church to Repentance (Revelation 2:16–17)**

Notice:

Jesus addresses the church.

The issue was not merely false teachers existing.

The issue was tolerating them.

Repentance means:

- Turn from compromise
- Cut away falsehood
- Submit to Scripture
- Pursue holiness

### **Church Discipline Matters**

Matthew 18 reminds us:

Church discipline exists to:

- Protect purity
- Preserve witness
- Restore sinners
- Honor Christ

Tolerance of sin is not loving.

Biblical correction is loving.

## **V. Promises to Those Who Conquer**

### **Hidden Manna**

Represents:

- Spiritual nourishment
- Covenant provision
- Communion with Christ
- Future reward

Christ Himself sustains His people.

### **White Stone With a New Name**

Represents:

- Acquittal
- Acceptance
- New identity
- Transformation

Believers are not condemned.

Believers are made new.

### **Final Application Questions**

Ask yourself:

- What compromise am I tolerating?
- Where have I become comfortable with gray areas?
- Am I holding Scripture tightly?
- Have I confused peacekeeping with faithfulness?
- Is there doctrine or sin I have minimized?

### **Conclusion**

It is easier to go along.

Christ calls us to hold fast.

It is easier to compromise.

Christ calls us to repent.

It is easier to fear culture.

Christ reminds us He walks among His churches.

### **Big Idea:**

Hold fast to Christ's name by cutting away compromise through the Word of God.