



LOVE SO AMAZING

The Love of Christ Exhibited

Specifically to Each of the Churches in Revelation

2022 THEME

PERGAMOS

Rev. 2:12 And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;

13 **I know thy works**, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

The Book of Revelation is an unveiling or revealing of the Lord Jesus Christ. In chapters two and three, this book reveals truth about the Lord Jesus that should be a focus of every church – He know a church’s “works.” Regarding the seven churches in these two chapters, note the following:

Rev. 2:2 **I know thy works**, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: ...

9 **I know thy works**, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. ...

13 **I know thy works**, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth. ...

19 **I know thy works**, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.

Rev. 3:1 And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; **I know thy works**, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. ...

8 **I know thy works**: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. ...

15 **I know thy works**, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

This morning, we will observe how the Lord Jesus Christ describes the church in Pergamos.



PERGAMOS

A few weeks ago we observed the Lord Jesus Christ's assessment of the church at Ephesus, then Smyrna. This morning, we will see what His assessment was of the church at Pergamus.

This city stood on the banks of the river Caicus, about 20 miles from the sea. It is now called Bergama, and has a population of some twenty thousand, of whom about two thousand profess to be Christians.

Parchment was first made here, and was called by the Greeks pergamene, from the name of the city.

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/pergamos/>





Snakes were so central to the cult of Asclepius that they were considered essential for his temples. When a new temple was founded, part of its establishment was the introduction of a breed of non-venomous snake.

These snakes lived in and around the temple, moving through it freely. They were used in some healing rituals along with dogs, another animal often associated with the afterlife.

<https://mythologysource.com/asclepius-snake-symbol/#:~:text=The%20legends%20of%20Asclepius%20also%20illustrate%20the%20unique,that%20was%20beyond%20th at%20of%20any%20living%20person.>



<http://jirik.tk.sweb.cz/bobove/galerie/asklepios.htm>

- ❖ Pergamos has several definitions, and one of them is “marriage.”
- ❖ Many writers have noted that Pergamos comes from the Greek word *gamos* that means marriage. This letter pictures a church married to the world rather than to Christ.

<https://bible.org/seriespage/4-pergamum-compromising-church#:~:text=Many%20writers%20have%20noted%20that%20Pergamum%20comes%20from,we%20are%20surrounded%20by%20an%20increasingly%20godless%20culture.>

This morning we will observe the assessment of Christ regarding Pergamos.

I. THE DECLARATION OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST “I know thy works...”

A. The Principle of Identity – the Believers’ Works,
2:13a “I know thy works...”

❖ The Lord Jesus Christ makes it clear that He is astutely aware of a church’s character:

Original Word: οἶδα

Transliteration: eidó

Definition: be aware, behold, consider, perceive;

Usage: **I know**, remember, appreciate.

***eídō* ("seeing that becomes knowing") then is a gateway to grasp spiritual truth (reality) from a physical plane. (*eídō*) then is physical seeing (sight) which should be the constant bridge to mental and spiritual seeing (*comprehension*).**

[Strong's Greek: 1492. εἶδω \(eidó\) -- be aware, behold, consider, perceive \(biblehub.com\)](https://www.biblehub.com/greek/1492.htm)

- ❖ The Lord Jesus addressed the church as a singular entity – “thy.”
- ❖ The Lord connects the individual church with its “works.”

Original Word: ἔργον

Transliteration: ergon

Definition: Usage: work, task, employment; a deed, action; that which is wrought or made, a work.

***érgon* ("work") is a deed (action) that carries out (completes) an *inner desire* (intension, purpose).**

<https://biblehub.com/greek/2041.htm>

B. The Present Inhabiting – the Believers' Warfare

Rev. 2:13b "...**where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is:** and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

❖ I know where you live.

Original Word: κατοικέω

Transliteration: katoikeó

Definition: to inhabit, to settle; **Usage:** I dwell in, settle in, am established in (permanently), inhabit.

katoikéō – **properly, settle *down* as a permanent resident, i.e. in a *fixed (permanent)* dwelling place as one's personal residence; (figuratively) "to be *exactly at home.*"**

<https://biblehub.com/greek/2730.htm>

- ❖ I know where Satan is. You are continually facing spiritual warfare.
- ❖ I know that you keep it all together – “...thou holdest fast my name...”

Original Word: κρατέω

Transliteration: krateó

Definition: to be strong, rule

Usage: I am strong, mighty, hence: I rule, am master, prevail; I obtain, take hold of; I hold, hold fast.

kratéō – to place under one's grasp (seize hold of, put under control).

<https://biblehub.com/greek/2902.htm>

❖ I know that you have not denied me – “...and hast not denied my faith...”

Original Word: ἀρνέομαι

Transliteration: arneomai

Definition: to deny, say no; **Usage:** (a) I deny (a statement), (b) I repudiate (a person, or belief).

arnéomai – properly, deny (refuse); hence, *contradict*, refuse to affirm or to confess (identify with); disown (repudiate).

<https://biblehub.com/greek/720.htm>

Mt. 10:32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

❖ I know that you were faithful even when Satanic influence caused the martyrdom of Antipas – “...even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.”

2 Thessalonians 1:4 So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God **for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:**

2 Timothy 2:3 Thou therefore **endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.**

James 5:11 **Behold, we count them happy which endure.** Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

❖ A believer's life encounters challenging battles of spiritual warfare and must endure them.

II. THE DIAGNOSIS OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, 2:14-15

A. The Notable Faults – The Descriptive Terms –
14a “But I have a few things against thee,
because thou hast there them that hold the
doctrine of Balaam...”

❖ Spiritual warfare includes the temptation to
compromise within the church – “...**thou hast there
them** that hold the doctrine of Balaam...”

B. The Noticeable Faithlessness – the Deceitful Terms – 14b “...who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.”

- ❖ Spiritual compromise includes lack of separation + lasciviousness.
- ❖ There are church members engaged in activities that the Lord hates – 15 “So **hast thou also them** that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.”

Rev. 2:6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest **the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.**

The name “Nicolaitans” is derived from the Greek word *nikolaos*, a compound of the words *nikos* and *laos*. The word *nikos* is the Greek word that means *to conquer* or *to subdue*. The word *laos* is the Greek word for *the people*. It is also **where we get the word *laity***. When these two words are compounded into one, they form the name *Nicolas*, which literally means ***one who conquers and subdues the people***. It seems to suggest that the Nicolaitans were somehow conquering and subduing the people.

<https://renner.org/article/who-were-the-nicolaitans-and-what-was-their-doctrine-and-deeds/#:~:text=It%20seems%20that%20the%20%22doctrine%22%20of%20the%20Nicolaitans,the%20%22doctrine%22%20of%20the%20Nicolaitans%20that%20Jesus%20%22hated.%22>

Now, briefly to summarize it, **the doctrine of the Nicolaitans: it is the exaltation of a group, a group above the people.** And this exalted group, who refer to themselves as princes of the church, this exalted group arrogate to themselves the power of life and of death, of excommunication and damnation, the keys to heaven and to imprison in hell. And they hold over their subjected people powers of fear and tyranny beyond any way for a man to describe it; for if they violate the precepts of the Nicolaitans, they are damned, unforgiven in sin, excommunicated in hell. And the power and the terror that they hold in having the forgiveness of sins in their hands, and the power of salvation committed unto them is without end; for it not only extends in this life, but it extends in the life that is yet to come; “The doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate,” says God [Revelation 2:15].

Jas. 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that **the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.**

❖ The church at Pergamos was a worldly, compromising church.

III. THE DEMAND OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, 2:16

A. The Command to Repent. – “Repent...”

❖ Get your heart right and get turned around from going in the wrong direction.

B. The Challenge of the Remedy – “...or else I will come unto thee quickly...”

❖ Do not waste time in making the decision – “...or else...”

C. The Charge of the Rebuke – “...and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.”

❖ The authority for correction will be the Lord Jesus Christ with the Word of God.

❖ Believers are engaged in a perpetual compromise for “love.”

1 Jn. 2:15 **Love not the world**, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For **all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.**

17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

❖ LOVE SO AMAZING must stay continually focused upon loving the Lord Jesus Christ!

Conclusion

Luke 13:3 I tell you, Nay: but, **except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.**

Heb. 12:11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

12 Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees;

13 And **make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.**

❖ Every believer needs spiritual healing at one time or another. Instead of going to a religious charlatan, go to the Lord Jesus Christ.