

## Weekly Study Guide | 11/03/24

### Message to the Church in Pergamum

Read [Revelation 2:12-17](#)

*12 “To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. 13 I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives. 14 Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality. 15 Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. 16 Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. 17 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.*

**Supporting Bible Verses:** [Revelation 1:16](#); [Hebrews 4:11-13](#); [Ephesians 6:17](#); [Numbers 21:8-9](#); [2 Kings 18:4](#); [John 3:14-15](#); [2 Corinthians 4:4](#); [Job 1:7](#); [1 Peter 5:8](#); [Luke 4:13](#); [Luke 22:31](#); [Luke 4:6](#); [Numbers 25:1-9](#); [Numbers 31:16](#); [2 Peter 2:15](#); [Jude 1:11](#); [Ezekial 34:18-19](#)

### Questions:

1. What themes and topics do you find in the verses above regarding the church in Pergamum? What are some things that stand out to you? How would you summarize the main message with a word or a short sentence?
2. What encouragement and challenge did they receive? In what way was the church in Pergamum commended? How was the church corrected?
3. What is the context of this passage? How would you describe the culture in Pergamum? What other dynamics were they facing? How does this play into the message to the church?
4. What does the double-edged sword refer to? Who was Antipas? What do the references to Satan mean? How about the teaching of Balaam and the Nicolaitans? The hidden manna? A white stone?

5. What is Spirit saying to the Church today? Is there a specific message for the church in America? How does this relate to us today?
6. Share a few takeaways from this lesson. What is a practical way you can apply this to your life? How can it help strengthen your relationship with God? What difference will this make to your daily outlook?

**For later:** Prayerfully consider how this lesson relates to you. What did you learn? What are some personal takeaways and insights you gained? What is a practical way you can apply this to your life? How will this help strengthen your relationship with God? What difference will this make in your life? Is there anything you need to change in light of this lesson?

### **Summary:**

The church in Pergamum is often referred to as the compromising church. The namesake can mean “mixed marriage” or “high place, fortified tower, or stronghold.” It was an important religious center for several pagan cults. As the first city in Asia to build a temple to Caesar, it became the capital of the cult of Caesar worship. Citizens were required to burn a pinch of incense at the foot of Caesar’s statue, honoring him as a god. Those who refused to do so were immediately arrested. Of Pergamum an ancient writer said it was “given to idolatry more than all Asia.” Though the believers of this church lived in a place where Satan dwelled and had his throne, they held fast to the Lord’s name and did not renounce their faith in Him even though it might lead to martyrdom. Nevertheless, they were tempted to compromise much as the Israelites did under the counsel of Balaam (Numbers 25:1–3 and 31:16). Balaam’s “way” or “error” was his willingness to encourage pagan beliefs and unions out of greed (2 Peter 2:15 and Jude 1:11). Some allowed the love of money and prestige to compromise their faith. Others misused their role as leaders. False doctrine if not checked leads to false worship. A church married to the world and not Christ is an unholy union. Remember, God knows where you live. He understands the culture in which you live and how it tempts you to compromise. You overcome by holding fast to His name and staying true to His word. The double-edged sword of God’s Word checks our thoughts and motives. It is the hidden manna that is our daily bread. We are victorious when we submit our lives to His Word. When we do, we receive access to God’s eternal award banquet in heaven, just as the victor received a white stone in Roman times.