

# A Tale of Seven Churches: Pergamum

Revelation 2:12-17



# Seven Churches Map



Pergamum was located about 37 miles north of Smyrna and 9 miles from the Aegean Sea. It was the official capital of the province of Asia Minor.

# Library



Pergamum was known its huge library.

# Two-Edged Sword



- In the letter to Pergamum, Jesus describes Himself as the one who has a sharp two-edged sword.
- Pergamum was the capital of Asia and the administrative home of the Roman Governor.
- The Roman Governor who had his office in Pergamum had the right of the sword.
- Jesus reminds the believers that, as the one with the sharp two-edged sword, the last word belongs to Him.

# Commendation



- The city of Pergamum had three primary religious philosophies when this letter was written:
  - The worship of Zeus
  - The worship of Asclepius
  - The worship of Caesar
- Rome did not care what god or gods you worshipped as long as you were also willing to worship Caesar.
- The church was commended for their loyalty and faithfulness even in the face of death.

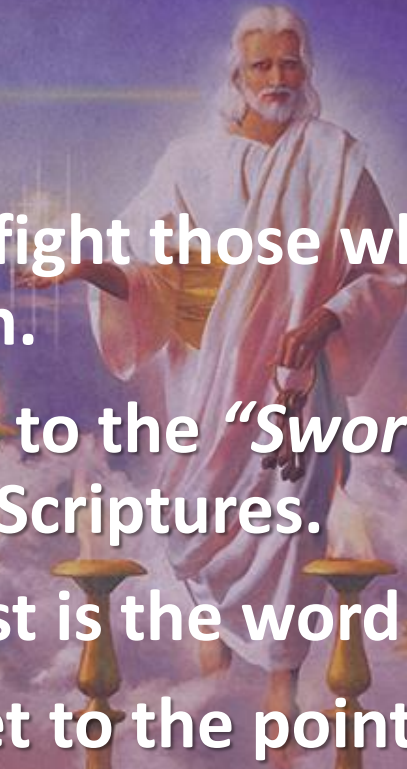
# *Nevertheless...*



- There is no evidence to suggest that sin was a major issue in the church.
- The church was just not condemning sin.
- The historical period this church represents is referred to as the compromising church, a period in history from 313AD until 600AD.
- The church was no longer comprised of those who had experienced a life changing experience.
- The church in Pergamum does not represent an apostate church but a church that is on the downward spiral to apostasy.

# The Warning

- Jesus said He will fight those who are trying to destroy the church.
- When Jesus refers to the *“Sword of my mouth,”* He is referring to the Scriptures.
- The sword of Christ is the word of Christ.
- When churches get to the point where they teeter on the brink of apostasy, God calls up someone to preach Biblical Admonition and Repentance to the church.



# Conclusion



- **We will be victorious.**
  - It is not how well you start the race that counts it is how well you finish.
  - If you do not like the earthly form of feeding upon Jesus, what makes you think that you will enjoy heaven?
- **We will receive a New Name engraved on a white stone.**
  - The important thing is not the stone, it is the new name that we are given.
  - The process of change has to start here on earth.
- **Everyone who is not victorious will not eat of the things of heaven and will not receive a new name.**