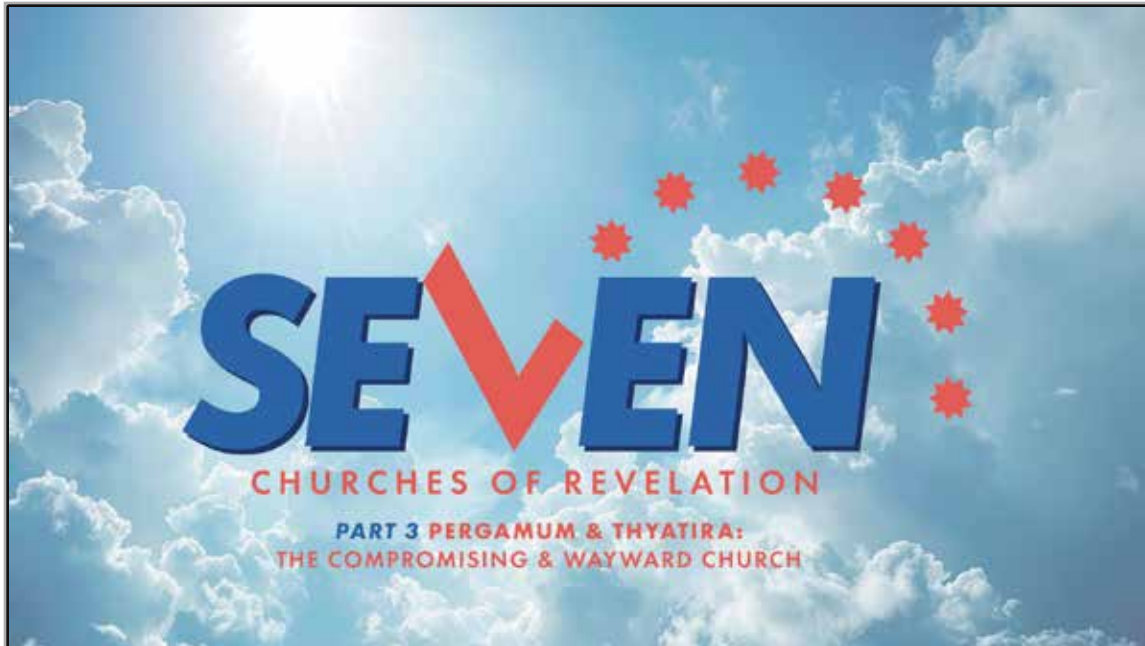


May 19, 2025

05-18-2025 Message



1 Group

Start Theme Slide

Salt and Light

2 Group

¹³“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

Matthew 5:13-16 (NIV)

¹⁵Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

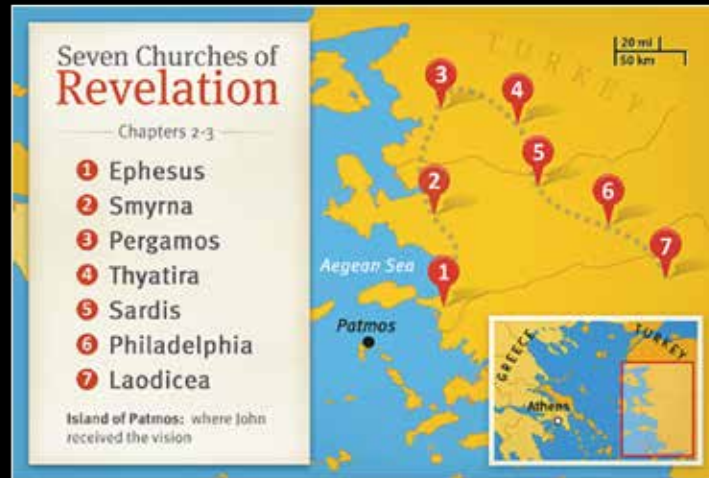
Matthew 5:13-16 (NIV)

Our lives and our churches are to be
lights in this dark world.

5



6



7

We are called to be “in the world, but
not of the world.”

8

¹⁵My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.

¹⁶They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.

John 17:15-16 (NIV)

9

John 17:15-16 (NIV)

“
Christians should live in the world, but not be filled with it. A ship lives in the water; but if the water gets into the ship, she goes to the bottom. So Christians may live in the world; but if the world gets into them, they sink.
”

D.L. Moody

10

²Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Romans 12:2 (NLT)

11

Romans 12:2 (NLT)

Pergamum and Thyatira represent the sin of compromise.

12

The churches in Pergamum and Thyatira were pressured to conform to the pagan practices of their day.

13

¹²“To the angel of the church in Pergamum write:

These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword.

¹³I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name.

Revelation 2:12-17 (NIV)

14

Revelation 2:12-17 (NIV) 1 of 4

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.

¹⁴Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam,

Revelation 2:12-17 (NIV)

Who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality.

¹⁵Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

¹⁶Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

Revelation 2:12-17 (NIV)

¹⁷Whoever 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.

Revelation 2:12-17 (NIV)

17

Revelation 2:12-17 (NIV) Last of 4

“Compromise is the cancer of the church, and we must rid Christ's body of it. While Christians can compromise on preferences, they cannot compromise on principles. We can't be one way on Sunday and another on Monday. This is a major problem among Christians in America today. We don't take a stand. We don't keep our standards. We merely shift to satisfy society.”

Tony Evans

18

Jesus acknowledges that it is not easy
to be a Christian in Pergamum.

19

THREE OBSERVATIONS:

1. "I know where you live"

20

¹³I 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.

Revelation 2:13 (NIV)

21

Revelation 2:13 (NIV)

THREE OBSERVATIONS:

1. “I know where you live”
2. The throne of Satan

22



Altar to Zeus, Pergamum Museum, Berlin

23

THREE OBSERVATIONS:

1. "I know where you live"
2. The throne of Satan
3. Sharp double-edged sword

24

¹²“To the angel of the church in Pergamum write:

These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword.

Revelation 2:12 (NIV)

25

Revelation 2:12 (NIV)

¹²For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12 (NIV)

26

Hebrews 4:12 (NIV)

It was not easy to be a Christian in Pergamum!

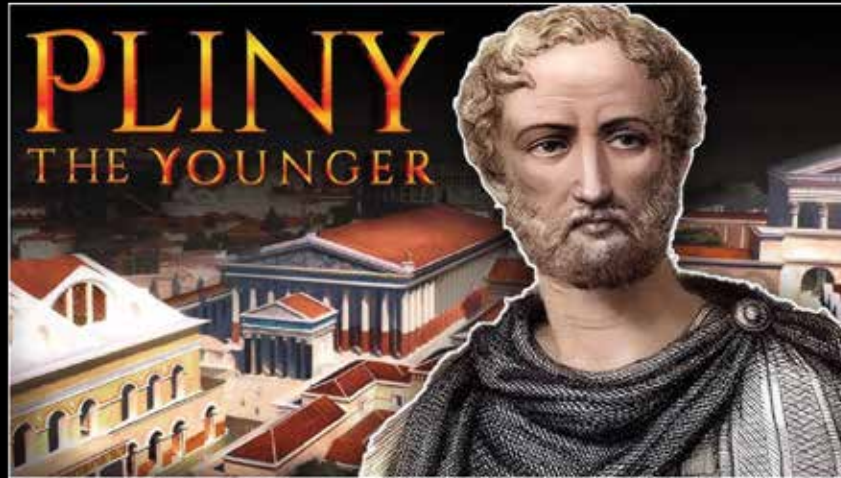
Christians were pressured to keep quiet about their faith and to join in the festivals and parties that were part of the culture.

27

Historical and cultural background of Pergamum:

1. The first city to embrace emperor worship (26 BC)

28



29

Historical and cultural background of
Pergamum:

2. Pergamum library and the invention of parchment

30



Frisco Public Library

31



32

Historical and cultural background of Pergamum:

3. Healing center and temple to Asklepios

33



34

Historical and cultural background of Pergamum:

4. Multiple pagan temples including a massive one to Zeus

35

Spiritual compromise isn't choosing other gods to worship **INSTEAD** of Jesus. It's trying to include other gods along **WITH** our worship of Jesus.

36



Temple to Trajan, Pergamum

37



Altar to Zeus, Temple to Zeus - Pergamum

38

Historical and cultural background of
Pergamum:

5. Pagan festivals/feasts/trade guilds

39



Philippe Katerine as Dionysius/Bacchus, Paris Olympics

40

Jesus both affirms and corrects the
Christians in Pergamum.

41

The affirmation:

Jesus affirms them for not renouncing
their faith in him.

42

¹³I 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.

Revelation 2:13 (NIV)

43

Revelation 2:13 (NIV)

The correction:

Some of you hold to the teachings of Balaam and the teachings of the Nicolaitans.

44

¹⁴Nevertheless, 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.

¹⁵Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

Revelation 2:14-15 (NIV)

¹Jesus said to his disciples: “Things that cause people to stumble are bound to come, but woe to anyone through whom they come.

²It would be better for them to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around their neck than to cause one of these little ones to stumble.

Luke 17:1-2 (NIV)

The sin of Balaam: Greed, idolatry, and sexual sin

47

What was the sin of the Nicolaitans?

Spiritual compromise; using God's grace as a way to rationalize sin.

48

Two things the Nicolaitans taught:

1. It is fine to participate in the festivals and eat meat sacrificed to idols.

49

⁴So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that “An idol is nothing at all in the world” and that “There is no God but one.”

⁵For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”),

1 Corinthians 8:4-13 (NIV)

50

1 Corinthians 8:4-13 (NIV) 1 of 6

⁶yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

⁷But not everyone possesses this knowledge.

1 Corinthians 8:4-13 (NIV)

Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat sacrificial food they think of it as having been sacrificed to a god, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled.

⁸But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do.

1 Corinthians 8:4-13 (NIV)

⁹Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak.

¹⁰For if someone with a weak conscience sees you, with all your knowledge, eating in an idol's temple, won't that person be emboldened to eat what is sacrificed to idols?

1 Corinthians 8:4-13 (NIV)

¹¹So this weak brother or sister, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge.

¹²When you sin against them in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.

¹³Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin,

1 Corinthians 8:4-13 (NIV)

I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall.

1 Corinthians 8:4-13 (NIV)

55

1 Corinthians 8:4-13 (NIV) last of 6

Two things the Nicolaitans taught:

2. It is fine to have sex outside of the covenant of marriage; after all, it's just your body.

56

¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never!

¹⁶Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh."
1 Corinthians 6:15-20 (NIV)

¹⁷But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit.

¹⁸Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body.

1 Corinthians 6:15-20 (NIV)

¹⁹Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;

²⁰you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

1 Corinthians 6:15-20 (NIV)

“

There is no such thing as casual sex, no matter how casual people are about it. Nobody can go to bed with someone and leave his soul parked outside. The demand for self-restraint is not a kill-joy rule plastered on the abundant life by anti-sexual saints. It is respect for reality. The moral law fits the inner reality of sex.

”

Lewis B. Smedes, *Sex for Christians: The Limits and Liberties of Sexual Living*.

FIVE STEPS TO SPIRITUAL COMPROMISE:

1. Fail to decide ahead of time to do the right thing
2. Underestimate evil (including the failure to recognize temptation)
3. Rationalize
4. Failure to consider the costly consequences of sin
5. Suddenly and deliberately choose to give in to sin

61

Jesus' message to the Christians who
were compromising their witness:
REPENT!

62

¹⁶Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

¹⁷Whoever 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.

Revelation 2:16-17 (NIV)

I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.

Revelation 2:16-17 (NIV)

