

ULC Sermon Study Resource

October 29 // Pergamum: The Compromised Church

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Icebreaker: Have you ever had an experience where there was something that you felt you couldn't compromise on?

Reading: Revelation 2:12-17

Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

- I. **The Church's Opposition (Revelation 2:13):**
 - A. The church in Pergamum faced significant opposition from the prevailing pagan culture and emperor worship, testing their faithfulness to Christ.
 - B. In our modern society, where various beliefs and worldviews coexist, how do we navigate the challenges of remaining faithful to our Christian values when faced with opposition and differing opinions?
- II. **The Church's Invitation (Revelation 2:17):**
 - A. Despite the opposition, the church in Pergamum received an invitation from Christ to hold fast to their faith and not deny His name.
 - B. In our daily lives, how can we extend the same invitation to others who might be struggling with their faith or facing opposition, inviting them into a community of support, love, and faithfulness?
- III. **The Church's Hope (Revelation 2:17):**
 - A. The hope for the church in Pergamum was symbolized by receiving a white stone and a new name, signifying being declared not guilty and having a new transformed identity in Christ.
 - B. How can the concept of a "new name" and a "fresh start" in Christ inspire us in our personal lives, encouraging us to overcome past mistakes and live with hope and purpose, especially in the face of opposition and challenges?

Reflection/Application Questions:

- In what practical ways can you, as a part of the Church, support and encourage one another to stand strong in the face of opposition or compromise in today's culture?

- How do we ensure that we don't compromise our faith with the influences of the world around us?
- How does the fact that we have that we will be justified through Christ and receive our own white stone of innocence give us the motivation to remain steadfast in our beliefs like the church in Pergamum?

Suggestion for further study:

Matthew 5:11-12 How does Jesus' message about persecution compare to that in Revelation 2:12-17?

2 Corinthians 5:17 How does this verse connect to the contempt of the white rock?

Closing prayer

Lord give us the strength to follow you no matter what the world throws at us. Keep us from compromising your teachings and keep us in the faith and in your love Amen.