

Dear Church...

EXPLORING THE LETTERS TO THE
SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION



Dear Church...

Revelation chapters 2 & 3





Pergamum

Thyatira

Smyrna

Sardis

Philadelphia

Ephesus

Laodicea



Pergamum

Thyatira

Smyrna

Sardis

Philadelphia

Ephesus

Laodicea



First-Century Mediterranean World



Macedonia / Bulgaria

Black Sea

The Seven Churches of Revelation

Turkey

ASIA

Aegean Sea

Pergamum

Thyatira

Smyrna

Sardis

Philadelphia

Greece

Ephesus

Ladicea

Mediterranean Sea

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1. Ephesus..... *The Loveless Church*



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- 2. Smyrna..... *The Persecuted Church*



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2. Smyrna..... *The Persecuted Church*
3. Pergamum..... *The Compromising Church*



Pergamum

Thyatira

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6. Philadelphia.... *The Faithful Church*



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5. Sardis..... *The Dead Church*
6. Philadelphia.... *The Faithful Church*
7. Laodicea..... *The Lukewarm Church*



Revelation 2:12-17

Pergamum



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The Compromising Church



Revelation 2:12-17

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¹³ “ ‘I know where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.



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¹⁴ But I have a few things against you:
you have some there who hold the teaching of
Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling
block before the sons of Israel, so that they
might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice
sexual immorality. ¹⁵ So also you have some
who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

¹⁶ Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon
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¹⁷ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.'



*PERGAMUM FACES
EXTERNAL + INTERNAL
THREATS*



Pergamum

3

PERGAMUM FACES
EXTERNAL + INTERNAL
THREATS



The city of Pergamum



Pergamum

3

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- Magnificent city with terraces leading to the acropolis at the top











DIE AKROPOLIS
VON
PERGAMON

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- Emperor worship was commanded. Disloyalty was viewed as unpatriotic, subversive, a threat to the social order, and punishable as high treason.



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Dear Church...



“There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors, and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight.”

- C. S. Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters*

Dear Church...



“Why is my mind under so much duress? Why do I feel inflicted by the ideologies of our time? Why do I feel this tug-of-war of desires in my own chest? Why do I keep coming back to self-defeating behavior? Why is there a steady stream of bad news from across the world? Why does injustice rage when so many of us decry it as evil? Why can’t we seem to fix the world’s deepest problems, even with all our money and technology and political prowess? And why do I even care? Why does it weigh on me so heavily? Consider this: Could it be our souls are at war with another world?”

- John Mark Comer, *Live No Lies*

Dear Church...



What if our Western world is actually blind to a whole dimension of reality? Ignorant of what many consider to be common sense? What if we're attempting to solve the problems of the world without dealing with the root cause? What if, for all our science and technology and political theory, we're actually oblivious to—or worse, willfully ignorant of—the facts?

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Dear Church... So... therefore... what now?



So....therefore....what now?

A letter to the church in

Pergamum

So....therefore....what now?

A letter to the church in

America

So....therefore....what now?

A letter to the church in

Wildwood

So....therefore....what now?

A letter to the church called

Quest

Dear Church... So... therefore... what now?



1

Dear Church... So... therefore... what now?



1

We must hold fast to Jesus in the face of external and internal pressures on our faith.

Dear Church... So....therefore....what now?



1

We must hold fast to Jesus in the face of external and internal pressures on our faith.

2

Dear Church... So....therefore....what now?



1

We must hold fast to Jesus in the face of external and internal pressures on our faith.

2

We must repent wherever we have compromised in our walk with Jesus.

COMMUNION



