

“But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.”

Revelation 2:14

The Christian Epistles

The Christian Epistles

Gospels and Acts – 5

The Christian Epistles

Gospels and Acts – 5

Paul's Epistles – 13

The Christian Epistles

Gospels and Acts – 5

Paul's Epistles – 13

General Epistles – 8

The Christian Epistles

Gospels and Acts – 5

Paul's Epistles – 13

General Epistles – 8

Jesus' Epistles – 7

The Christian Epistles

Gospels and Acts – 5

Paul's Epistles – 13

General Epistles – 8

Jesus' Epistles – 7

The Christian Epistles

Jesus' Epistles – 7

The Christian Epistles

Jesus' Epistles – 7

Ephesus

The Christian Epistles

Jesus' Epistles – 7

Ephesus

Smyrna

The Christian Epistles

Jesus' Epistles – 7

Ephesus

Smyrna

Pergamos

The Christian Epistles

Jesus' Epistles – 7

Ephesus

Smyrna

Pergamos

Thyatira

The Christian Epistles

Jesus' Epistles – 7

Ephesus

Smyrna

Pergamos

Thyatira

Sardis

The Christian Epistles

Jesus' Epistles – 7

Ephesus

Smyrna

Pergamos

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

The Christian Epistles

Jesus' Epistles – 7

Ephesus

Smyrna

Pergamos

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

Laodicea

The Christian Epistles

Jesus' Epistles – 7

Ephesus

Smyrna

Pergamos

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

Laodicea

The Christian Epistles

Jesus' Epistles – 7

Ephesus

Smyrna

Pergamos

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

Laodicea

The Christian Epistles

Jesus' Epistles – 7

Ephesus

Smyrna

Pergamos

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

Laodicea

Report Card Summary

Report Card Summary

Good

Bad

Ephesus

Smyrna

Pergamos

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

Laodicea

Report Card Summary

Good

Bad

Ephesus

X

Smyrna

Pergamos

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

Laodicea

Report Card Summary

	<u>Good</u>	<u>Bad</u>
Ephesus	X	X
Smyrna		
Pergamos		
Thyatira		
Sardis		
Philadelphia		
Laodicea		

Report Card Summary

	<u>Good</u>	<u>Bad</u>
Ephesus	X	X
Smyrna	X	
Pergamos		
Thyatira		
Sardis		
Philadelphia		
Laodicea		

Report Card Summary

	<u>Good</u>	<u>Bad</u>
Ephesus	X	X
Smyrna	X	
Pergamos		
Thyatira		
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Philadelphia		
Laodicea		

The Revelation

The Revelation

The Seven Letters from Christ to His Church

The Revelation

The Seven Letters from Christ to His Church

How does this apply to us today?

The Revelation

The Seven Letters from Christ to His Church

How does this apply to us today?

Local

The Revelation

The Seven Letters from Christ to His Church

How does this apply to us today?

Local

To all Churches

The Revelation

The Seven Letters from Christ to His Church

How does this apply to us today?

Local

To all Churches

Personal

The Revelation

The Seven Letters from Christ to His Church

How does this apply to us today?

Local

To all Churches

Personal

Prophetic

The Revelation

The Seven Letters from Christ to His Church

How does this apply to us today?

Local

To all Churches

Personal

Prophetic

The Revelation

Prophetic

The Revelation

Prophetic

These seven letters to the seven churches lay out church history for us in advance.

The Revelation

Prophetic

These seven letters to the seven churches lay out church history for us in advance.

They tell us about the times in which we live, what Christ is pleased with and what He is not.

The Revelation

Prophetic

These seven letters to the seven churches lay out church history for us in advance.

They tell us about the times in which we live, what Christ is pleased with and what He is not.

If they were listed in any other order it would not fit.

The Design of the Letters

The Design of the Letters

1. The Name of the Church

The Design of the Letters

1. The Name of the Church
2. The Title of Christ Used

The Design of the Letters

1. The Name of the Church
2. The Title of Christ Used
3. His Commendation (good news)

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2. The Title of Christ Used
3. His Commendation (good news)
4. His Concern or Rebuke (bad news)

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2. The Title of Christ Used
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5. Exhortation

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6. A Promise to the Overcomer

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1. The Name of the Church
2. The Title of Christ Used
3. His Commendation (good news)
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5. Exhortation
6. A Promise to the Overcomer
7. The Closing (“He who has an ear...”)

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4. His Concern or Rebuke (bad news)
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6. A Promise to the Overcomer
7. The Closing (“He who has an ear...”)

The order of the last two sometimes switched.

Ephesus

Ephesus

Name means “desired one” or “darling”

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They were a faithful, hard working church that had
“left your first love” – Revelation 2:4

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Name means “desired one” or “darling”

They were a faithful, hard working church that had
“left your first love” – Revelation 2:4

Doctrine had become more important than devotion.

Ephesus – Prophetic

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The letter to the church at Ephesus represents the apostolic church and shows that at the end of the first century (when the letter was written) the church was already in trouble.

Ephesus – Prophetic

The letter to the church at Ephesus represents the apostolic church and shows that at the end of the first century (when the letter was written) the church was already in trouble.

This time frame runs from the birth of the church until the turn of the first century, 30 AD to 100 AD.

Ephesus – Report Card

Ephesus – Report Card

The Lord said both good and bad things about the church in Ephesus.

Ephesus – Report Card

The Lord said both **good** and bad things about the church in Ephesus.

Ephesus – Report Card

The Lord said both **good** and **bad** things about the church in Ephesus.

Report Card Summary

Report Card Summary

Good

Bad

Ephesus

Smyrna

Pergamos

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

Laodicea

Report Card Summary

Good

Bad

Ephesus

X

Smyrna

Pergamos

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

Laodicea

Report Card Summary

	<u>Good</u>	<u>Bad</u>
Ephesus	X	X
Smyrna		
Pergamos		
Thyatira		
Sardis		
Philadelphia		
Laodicea		

Ephesus – Our Response

Ephesus – Our Response

Are we doing what the Lord praised the church at
Ephesus for doing?

Ephesus – Our Response

Are we doing what the Lord praised the church at
Ephesus for doing?

Or are we doing what He did not praise them for?

Ephesus – Our Response

Are we doing what the Lord praised the church at
Ephesus for doing?

Or are we doing what He did not praise them for?
And do we really care?

Ephesus – Our Response

Are we doing what the Lord praised the church at
Ephesus for doing?

Or are we doing what He did not praise them for?
And do we really care?

If so, what are we (you) prepared to do about it?

Smyrna

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Smyrna means “suffering” or “death”

The Hebrew root of the word is translated “myrrh”

This was a church that had suffered greatly and was praised by our Lord for their faithfulness to Him and their perseverance under great trials and testing.

Smyrna – Prophetic

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This time frame runs from the turn of the first century until the Edict of Milan, later known as the Edict of Toleration, by Emperor Constantine in 312 AD.

Smyrna – Prophetic

The letter to the church at Smyrna represents the persecuted church that suffered horribly under the 10 great Roman persecutions.

This time frame runs from the turn of the first century until the Edict of Milan, later known as the Edict of Toleration, by Emperor Constantine in 312 AD.

It spans from 100 AD to 312 AD.

Smyrna – Report Card

Smyrna – Report Card

The Lord only had good things to say about the church in Smyrna— nothing bad.

Smyrna – Report Card

The Lord only had **good** things to say about the church in Smyrna– nothing bad.

Report Card Summary

Report Card Summary

	<u>Good</u>	<u>Bad</u>
Ephesus	X	X
Smyrna		
Pergamos		
Thyatira		
Sardis		
Philadelphia		
Laodicea		

Report Card Summary

	<u>Good</u>	<u>Bad</u>
Ephesus	X	X
Smyrna	X	
Pergamos		
Thyatira		
Sardis		
Philadelphia		
Laodicea		

Report Card Summary

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Ephesus	X	X
Smyrna	X	
Pergamos		
Thyatira		
Sardis		
Philadelphia		
Laodicea		

Smyrna – Our Response

Smyrna – Our Response

Are we doing what the Lord praised the church at
Smyrna for doing?

Smyrna – Our Response

Are we doing what the Lord praised the church at
Smyrna for doing?

And if not, what are we (you) prepared to do about it?

Pergamos

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Pergamos means “mixed marriage” that is “objectionable” to God.

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Pergamos means “mixed marriage” that is “objectionable” to God.

It represents the marriage of the church and state where the state elevates the church to a place of acceptance or political correctness at the expense of the church’s devotion to God.

Pergamos – Name of Christ

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“And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write,
‘These things says He who has the sharp
two-edged sword:’

Revelation 2:12

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This refers to the Word of God.

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“the sharp two-edged sword”

This refers to the Word of God.

Jesus is described as the One who is identified as or
with the Word of God.

Pergamos – Name of Christ

For the (what) word of God is living and powerful (*energēs* – referring to energy, engaged in work, active, effective), and sharper than (what) any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12

Pergamos – Name of Christ

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Hebrews 4:12

Pergamos – Name of Christ

And take the helmet of salvation, and (what) the sword of the Spirit, (defined as) which is the word of God.

Ephesians 6:17

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Ephesians 6:17

Pergamos – Good News

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“I know (1492) your works (*érgon* – labor, performance, the result or object of employment), and where you dwell (*katoikéō* – reside in a fixed dwelling), where Satan’s throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells (*katoikéō* – reside in a fixed dwelling).”

Revelation 2:13

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Revelation 2:13

Pergamos – Good News

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The altar of Zeus Sōtēr seemed to be a throne.

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Christians who refused to acknowledge Caesar as Lord and God faced confiscation of their property, exile, or death.

Pergamos – Good News

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What do we know about “Antipas”
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He was probably one of the leaders of the Pergamos church. According to tradition, he was roasted to death inside a brass bull during the persecution instigated by Emperor Domitian.

Pergamos – Good News

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What about “My **faithful** martyr”?

Pergamos – Good News

John, to the seven churches which are in Asia:
Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who
was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits
who are before His throne, and from Jesus Christ,
(described as) the faithful witness, the firstborn from
the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth.
To Him who loved us and washed us from our
sins in His own blood.

Revelation 1:5-6

Pergamos – Good News

John, to the seven churches which are in Asia:
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To Him who loved us and washed us from our
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Revelation 1:5-6

Pergamos – Good News

“And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says (who) the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God.’”

Revelation 3:14

Pergamos – Good News

“And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says (who) the Amen, **the Faithful and True Witness**, the Beginning of the creation of God.’”

Revelation 3:14

Pergamos – Good News

The church at Pergamos was located in the center of emperor worship and was persecuted for their devotion to Christ.

Pergamos – Good News

The church at Pergamos was located in the center of emperor worship and was persecuted for their devotion to Christ.

Yet, as the Lord commended them, they held fast to His Name even in the face of persecution and martyrdom.

Pergamos – Good News

The church at Pergamos was located in the center of emperor worship and was persecuted for their devotion to Christ.

Yet, as the Lord commended them, they held fast to His Name even in the face of persecution and martyrdom.

But, unlike the church at Smyrna, they compromised and became politically correct and worldly.

Pergamos – Bad News

Pergamos – Bad News

“But I have a few things against you, because you have there (in the church) those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. Thus you also have those (in the church) who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.”

Revelation 2:14-15

Pergamos – Bad News

“**But I have a few things against you**, because you have there (in the church) those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. Thus you also have those (in the church) who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.”

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What was the church at Pergamos’ position against these two groups within the church?

What is the church’s position against the heresies within the church today?

Pergamos – Exhortation

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“Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.”

Revelation 2:16

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Note: both “you” and “them” are pronouns referring to the church at Pergamos.

Pergamos – Exhortation

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Note: both “you” and “them” are pronouns referring to the church at Pergamos.

The Lord is saying if the church doesn't repent He will come to the church quickly and fight against it with the sword of His mouth.

Pergamos – Exhortation

What was the sin of the church at Pergamos?

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Compromise with the world.

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Let's look at the church at Laodicea.

Pergamos – Exhortation

“And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.’”

Revelation 3:14-16

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Pergamos – Exhortation

“Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’ — and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked — I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.”

Revelation 3:17-18

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Pergamos – Exhortation

“As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door (of the church) and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.”

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Pergamos – Exhortation

“To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Revelation 3:21-22

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Pergamos – Closing and Promise

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“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.”

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Revelation 2:17

Again: the promise is after the closing statement.

Pergamos – Prophetic

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Pergamos represents the church that is “married” to the state and the world.

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Pergamos – Prophetic

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This period of the church ran from 312 AD to 606 AD.

“What persecution didn’t accomplish, marriage to the world did.”

Pergamos – Prophetic

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In this sign thou shalt conquer.

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“in hoc signo vinces”

In this sign thou shalt conquer.

Constantine defeated Maxentius at the Milvan bridge, and immediately declared his conversion to Christianity.

Pergamos – Prophetic

325 AD – The Edict of Toleration established freedom of religion; favored Christians at court; exempted Christian ministers from taxes; and issued a general exhortation to all his subjects to become Christians.

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330 AD – Constantine moved the capital of the empire to Byzantium, calling it Constantinople.

Pergamos – Prophetic

361-363 AD – Julian, “The Apostate” sought to restore paganism throughout the empire.

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363-364 AD – Jovian reestablished the Christian religion in the empire.

378-395 AD – Theodosius made Christianity the state religion by forced conversions and filled the churches with unregenerates.

Pergamos – Prophetic

300 AD – Prayers for the dead

Pergamos – Prophetic

300 AD – Prayers for the dead

300 AD – Making the sign of the cross

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300 AD – Prayers for the dead

300 AD – Making the sign of the cross

375 AD – Worship of saints and angels

Pergamos – Prophetic

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394 AD – Mass first instituted

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300 AD – Prayers for the dead

300 AD – Making the sign of the cross

375 AD – Worship of saints and angels

394 AD – Mass first instituted

431 AD – Worship of Mary began

500 AD – Priest began dressing different than
layman

Pergamos – Prophetic

526 AD – Extreme Unction

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526 AD – Extreme Unction

593 AD – Doctrine of Purgatory introduced

Pergamos – Prophetic

526 AD – Extreme Unction

593 AD – Doctrine of Purgatory introduced

600 AD – Worship services conducted in Latin

Pergamos – Prophetic

526 AD – Extreme Unction

593 AD – Doctrine of Purgatory introduced

600 AD – Worship services conducted in Latin

600 AD – Prayers offered to Mary

Pergamos – Report Card

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The Lord has both good and bad things to say about the church at Pergamos.

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Report Card Summary

Good

Bad

Report Card Summary

Good

Bad

Ephesus

Smyrna

Pergamos

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

Laodicea

Report Card Summary

Good

Bad

Ephesus

X

Smyrna

Pergamos

Thyatira

Sardis

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Report Card Summary

	<u>Good</u>	<u>Bad</u>
Ephesus	X	X
Smyrna		
Pergamos		
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Laodicea		

Report Card Summary

	<u>Good</u>	<u>Bad</u>
Ephesus	X	X
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Pergamos		
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And what are you prepared to do about it?

