

3. Why does Jesus tell the church at Pergamum that He has the sharp two-edged sword (2:12, 16)? What would that mean to them? How would that help them overcome a common problem we all face: “the fear of man”?
4. Imagine a billboard by the freeway as you approach a city that says, *“Welcome to _____, where Satan lives.”* Would that motivate you to move there or move away from there? Does Jesus tell the believer to move to a safer city? If not, why not? List reasons why it is critical for mature (maturing) believers to stay in Los Angeles. What are some temporary and eternal benefits?
5. Missionary **C.T. Studd** once wrote: *“Some want to live within the sound of church or chapel bell; I want to run a rescue shop, within a yard of hell.”* What does that mean? How might The Bridge aggressively run a rescue shop here in Los Angeles, where Satan dwells? List specific activities and/or on-going ministries that we could do to impact this city for Christ.
6. What does the word **“tolerance”** mean? What does our current culture believe “tolerance” means? How do we guard against tolerating those things in our church? How do we gently & respectfully answer people / teachers / politicians in our city when they push us to approve of things the Bible says are wrong? (See 1 Peter 3:15)
7. Make a list of things similar to the teaching of **Balaam** and the **Nicolaitans** in our culture. Have you tolerated any of them in your life? Have we tolerated them in our church? If so, what is Jesus telling us to do about it? What specifically will that look like this week?
8. What is the **hidden manna**? What is the **white stone**? How would these promises motivate followers of Jesus to stop tolerating evil in their church?
9. **This afternoon, contact unsaved friends you have been praying for and invite them to the Christmas Concert tonight at 6pm.**

December 15, 2024
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
 Pastor Paul S. Brown
 Revelation 2:12-17

“The Things Which Are” – Part 3
Our Glorious Lord’s Message to the Church at Pergamum

- I. The Things Which You Have Seen – Revelation 1
- II. **The Things Which Are – Revelation 2-3**
 - A. The Church at **Ephesus** (2:1-7)
 - B. The Church at **Smyrna** (2:8-11)
- C. **The Church at Pergamum (2:12-17)**
 1. **Place (12)** – “And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write:”
 2. **Portrait (12)** – “The One who has the sharp two-edged sword says this:”
 3. **Praise (13)** – ‘I know where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is; and you hold fast My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.’

4. **Problem (14-15)** – ‘But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit *acts of* immorality. So you also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.’
6. **Promise (17)** – ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give *some* of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.’

So What?

Discussion & Application:

5. **Prescription (16)** – ‘Therefore repent; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth.’
1. Review what you have learned about the letters to **Ephesus** and **Smyrna**. What similarities and differences do you see between the two? How would obedience to Jesus’ **prescription** to Ephesus in Rev. 2:5 enable His followers to be both fearless and faithful (prescription to Smyrna in 2:10)?
2. How does the **background and history** of the city of Pergamum help you better understand some of the things Jesus says about the church there? What similarities do you see between the city of Pergamum and the city of Los Angeles? Both good and bad, how specifically does the culture, politics, education system, and religious beliefs of Los Angeles impact our church?