



# Citadel Of Faith Covenant Church

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ALPHA AND OMEGA

Jesus continues His discourse with the seven churches. Each church has been given specific “words” from Christ. We’ve looked at the church at Ephesus (Rev. 2:1-7) and Smyrna (Rev. 2:8-11). Today we turn our attention to Pergamum. Once again the salutation is to the angel of the church in Pergamum. We can’t underscore this enough...the role of the pastor. Pastors are not offices which are man made. This spiritual office is given by the spirit to the church. Ephesians 4:11 reminds us that the office of the pastor is not by man’s design, but God’s. God has selected those whom He would have to serve as under-shepherds to the flock of God. He then says in Jeremiah 3:15 that He will give pastors after His own heart. If we could ever view the pastor as God’s answer to what we needed most in our lives, we would pray and lean into what God has given to the body through this office. The pastor (angel) has been given the bulk of the responsibility for communicating God’s word back to the people. All of these pretty tough words to the church comes though the pastor. Before edification, rebuke, encouragement or admonishment is given to the church, it’s given to the angel (messenger-pastor). Jesus addresses Himself as the one who has the sharp, double-edged sword. We discovered in chapter one when John saw the vision of Jesus in the midst of the seven golden lampstands. This revealing of Christ has His tongue as a double-edged sword. Hebrews 4:12 reminds us that the Word of God is alive and active and sharper than any two edged sword. Jesus begins by saying that he knows where the church lives, in the seat of Satanic power.

Pergamos has two meanings: “marriage” and “elevation”. Pergamum is a inland city built a couple of miles from the city Troy. By the first century AD, this city was the official center for the imperial cult. Many temples and statues adorned this city skyline. The church in Pergamos signifies the condition of the church from the fourth century to the seventh century. During this time, Rome (the greatest kingdom on earth) adopted Christianity as its state religion. It was during this time that Christianity is not only expected, it is anticipated. The mixture of the secular and the sacred began to dilute and profane the truth of the Christian church. Many believers were practicing all of the religions and expressions as though they were founded in truth, but most were founded in cultish error. With all of this Jesus states that he commends them for staying true to His name! Rev. 2:13 states of Jesus’ commendation for them not wavering even in the days of Antipas (Jesus’ faithful witness) who was martyred in Pergamum the city where Satan lives. The condition of the city did not run off the believers. Instead it deepened their resolve. Once again, Jesus celebrates their accomplishments, before moving towards their need for improvement.