

WE WILL NOT COMPROMISE!

The Convictions of a Faithful Church

Revelation 2:12-17

In a culture where we experience increasing godlessness and rebellion against God and His Word, it is imperative that the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ remain faithful, even if such faithfulness to Christ leads to persecution and martyrdom. Now is the time for every follower of Christ to take his or her stand for the Lord Jesus and His gospel against the evil seduction of compromising one's love and allegiance to our True Master. Gleaning from Jesus' message to the Church of Pergamum, let's reflect on these three biblical convictions which will empower today's church to remain faithful to Christ.

1. We will revere Jesus alone as our _____.

The Christians in Pergamum faced the threat of execution and death if they did not bow to the sword of the emperor's rule and authority. Our Lord Jesus comforted them with the truth that He alone has the sword of highest authority for He is the true Sovereign Ruler and Judge (Rev. 2: 1; Matt. 28:18; Phil. 2:9-11; John 5:22; Acts 17:30-31; 2 Cor. 5:9-10). As the faithful church of Christ, we bow to no other superior but our King and Lord Jesus. When the law of the land collides with the word of God, we will obey God rather than men (Acts 5:27-32).

2. We will remain true to _____.

The Christians in Pergamum were living in a city where Satan exercised prominent evil influence and power. Pergamum was known for being a center of pagan idolatry and emperor worship in Asia Minor. The city was severely in bondage to paganism, superstition, idolatry and immorality (Rev.2:13). In spite of this evil and wicked environment, our Lord Jesus commended the believers in this city for their loyalty to Christ and the truths of the Christian faith. As the faithful church of Christ, we should be bold and unashamed to bear the name of Christ and proclaim the gospel truths in this hostile world. By His divine appointment, God has providentially placed us in our respective "mission field" to serve as His faithful witness (Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:20).

3. We will resolve to live a _____.

The Christians in Pergamum did not only suffer external persecution from their pagan government. They were also assaulted internally within the confines of their congregation. The Lord Jesus rebuked them for tolerating false teachers in their midst who perverted the grace of God into a license to sin (Rev. 2:14-15; Jude 1:4,11). In response to this insidious seduction to compromise, we, as the faithful church of Christ, should reject every false doctrine that defiles the purity of the body of Christ, cultivate a repentant heart and choose to delight in the rewards of Christ more than the pleasures of sin (Rev. 2:16-17; Rom. 6:1-2; 1 John 1:9; John 6:35,40). Nothing is more essential to our effectiveness as a church than our commitment to a consecrated life, for a holy church is a powerful weapon in the hand of God!