

## The Early Church Where Satan Lives – Pergamum Revelation 2:12-17

All of us long for the satisfaction of finding a sense of meaning and significance in life, but we seek it in different ways. What are some of the ways people today try to find meaning and significance in life apart from God? How do those people respond when they encounter people who find meaning and significance by living in submission to God’s authority? How do we, as believers, respond to those people who try to find meaning and significance apart from God?

Read Rev 2:12-17 What compliments does God have for the Church in Pergamum? What complaints does He have? What specific instruction does He give the Church in Pergamum?

The Deception In Pergamum		The Truth
Counterfeit gods	Their Claim(s)	
ZEUS	Acclaimed as king of kings, lord of lords, creator of the universe	God alone is King of Kings, Lord of lords, Creator of the universe.
DIONYSUS	Reputed to provide joy, eternal life, and meaning; said to be able to change water into wine	God alone provides these through Jesus, who turned water into wine and rose from the dead.
DEMETER	Said to provide daily bread, redemption, and resurrection to eternal life through the blood of animals	God alone provides these through Jesus, who miraculously fed thousands, shed his own blood, and rose from the dead so the people might receive forgiveness for sin and eternal life.
ASCLEPIUS	Reputed to provide good health, healing from disease, and eternal life	God alone provides these through Jesus, who healed people, rose from the dead, and provides eternal life.
CEASAR-EMPORER	Was viewed as lord of all, the supreme source of truth in the universe	Jesus, seated at God's right hand, is Lord and King of the universe; God is the source of all truth; only He is worthy of worship.
PEOPLE	Give themselves or other things credit for what God has really done (provision, healing, life, etc)	People need to have a personal relationship with the one, true God through Jesus the Messiah.

What parallels do you see between the worship of the various gods of Pergamum and the priorities of our own culture? How would you define what is meant by “Satan’s throne” and the place where “Satan lives”? In what ways could the everyday beliefs and activities of our current culture be identified as the place where “Satan lives”?

In what way(s), obvious and subtle, are you tempted to try to find “life” apart from God? Which gods of this world appeal most to you, and in what ways do you make excuses to indulge in your sinful nature and follow them rather than keeping in step with the Spirit?

Read Ephesians 6:10-12 Why is it important for you, and every believer, to not only recognize the spiritual battle between God and Satan but to know that you have a part in it? How are you to equip yourself for that battle? (hint: look at the next 4 or 5 verses)