



TALK IT OVER

Pergamum

BOTTOM LINE

Without a great defense, defeat is imminent.

CONVERSATION STARTER

The world has changed so much. What is one thing you have acquired in the last 10 years that you would currently have a hard time doing without?

THINGS TO CONSIDER

What did you hear?

What do you think?

What will you do?

RESOURCES

- The Daily: newpointe.org/thedaily
- Intro to the [Church at Pergamum](#) (4½ min.)

KEY VERSES AND QUOTES

To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives. Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality. Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it. Revelation 2:12-17 NIV

“Satan attacks to destroy, displace, and distract. We build our defense against his attacks with the Word and daily repentance.” – Dave VanDonge

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Pergamum is “where Satan has his throne.” What does that signify? If you were picking a place today to describe in that way, where would you select and why? Discuss the powerful commendations Jesus gives them. Their pastor Antipas was martyred, and they stayed faithful. Zechariah 13:7 says, “Strike the flock, and the sheep will scatter.” What was significant enough in spite of that faithfulness that Jesus mentioned it? How did Satan’s attempts to destroy, displace, and distract lead them to complacency and assimilation of sin into their lives? Scot McKnight says that they were accommodating the religious practices of the empire around them. How do you think Christians can maintain a godly, distinctive identity in the world while loving people without condemnation? How can you keep your defenses up against Satan through the Word and daily repentance.

ACTION STEP

My plan to be strong in the world against Satan’s attack is daily time in the Word and daily repentance. My normal time will be _____.