

v. 13 Pergamos is where Satan dwells and has his seat.

In the whole area where these seven congregations are, the city of Pergamos is the city in which the devil most exercises his power.

What is it like in such a place?

Revelation 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Revelation 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

Revelation 12:17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

So, in a place where Satan dwells and has his seat, these things will be very prominent:

- the people will be deceived
  - into false religion
  - into vain philosophy and science
  - into sinful conduct/lifestyle
- the brethren will be accused of wrong-doing
- those who obey God's commands and testify of Jesus will be attacked

In Pergamos, one of the Christians, named Antipas, actually had been killed for his faithfulness to Jesus Christ.

Our Lord Jesus knows that despite those very difficult conditions, and the death of Antipas, the congregation in Pergamos had:

- held fast His name; that is, not denied Him entirely
- not denied His faith; that is, not accepted any changes to what He has taught us to believe and preach

However, the strong work of the devil in that city had made it into the congregation. Our Lord Jesus describes that evil in two ways:

- Some in the congregation held to the doctrine of Balaam
  - that it is okay to relate with the pagan women, and to dabble in their religion
  - remember the conference in Jerusalem, Acts 15:29
- Some in the congregation held the doctrine of the Nicolaitans
  - we don't know what it was exactly; but it must have had something to do with saying things are okay that the Lord says He hates
  - remember that we reviewed things that the Bible says the Lord hates: **THE LORD HATES ALL WICKEDNESS**
    - The Lord hates people doing wrong to other people.
    - The Lord hates a husband getting rid of his wife, or a wife getting rid of her husband.
    - The Lord hates people worshiping other gods.
    - The Lord hates people worshiping Him while doing wrong to people.
    - The Lord hates people setting up an image to worship.
    - The Lord hates people looking to the inventions of man to see how to worship.

The pastor and the congregation as a whole are to repent for tolerating this among them.

- the sin our Lord Jesus is addressing is that the pastor and congregation have such people in the congregation
- ”thou hast them”

If they don't repent, the Lord Jesus says, “I will come unto thee...and fight against them.”

- come to the congregation
- and fight against those holding the doctrine of Balaam and the Nicolaitans