

OCC Connections Bible Study (Group or Personal)

Sword and Stone: Repent. Remain. Receive.: Revelation 2:12-17

Read for context: Numbers 25:1-3; Numbers 31:16; Exodus 16:32-34; Isaiah 49:2; Hebrews 4:12; 1 Corinthians 10:18-21; 1 Corinthians 6:13, 19-20; John 6:31-35.

Big Idea: In a city where Satan's throne is, Jesus calls for the church of Pergamum, and us today, to remain in him, to refuse offering food or our bodies to idols, to repent (change your mind), and overcome (in Christ). Christ calls us to be nourished by manna and to receive a **white stone** with a new name. In Christ, we receive salvation: a new life, a new identity, and a new name.

1) Read the Text

Read Revelation 2:12-17 aloud.

(Consider also Numbers 25:1-3; Numbers 31:16; Exodus 16:32-34; 1 Corinthians 10:18-21; John 6:31-35.)

Ask the Lord to give you wisdom to discern between compromise and faithfulness.

2) Observe the Text *(choose 2–3 prompts)*

- How does Christ **describe** Himself in v.12, and what does this reveal about His authority and judgment?
- What does Jesus **commend** in v.13 about the church's faithfulness?

- What **opposition** and **compromise** are mentioned in vv.14-15?
 - What **warning** does Jesus give in v.16?
 - What two **promises** are given in v.17 to those who overcome?
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3) See the Connections

Context: The church received both commendation for holding fast to Christ's name and reproof for tolerating false teaching. The "*teaching of Balaam*" refers to what we find in Numbers 25:1-3 and 31:16. These verses show where Balaam led Israel to compromise through idolatry and immorality. The "*teaching of the Nicolaitans*" promoted similar compromise. Christ warns with His **sword**, promises **hidden manna** (spiritual nourishment), and a **white stone with a new name** (salvation, new identity, acceptance).

Word Work:

- **Sword (ῥομφαία)** Strong's: G4501: This word sword appears mostly in Revelation and once in Luke 2:35. The language speaks of a larger sword and was typically used for judgement.
 - This is different than sword (μάχαιρα) G3162, which is a more commonly found in scripture as a short sword or knife. (Example: Ephesians 6:17 and Hebrews 4:12)

- **Manna (μάννα)** Strong's: G3131 - Manna: This connects to Exodus 16:31-34 where manna was kept in the ark. We can also see that Christ is our true bread from heaven (John 6:31-35), our manna.

Cross References:

- **Numbers 25:1-3; 31:16:** Balaam's tactics led Israel into idolatry and immorality. This is the same sin that some people in the church in Pergamum fell into.
- **Exodus 16:31-34:** These verses speak of the hidden manna in the ark as a testimony of God's provision. God provides for his people then and now in Christ.
- **1 Corinthians 10:18-21:** One cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. This is not simply about food, but devotion and who you worship.
- **1 Corinthians 6:13, 19-20:** Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit and is meant to honor and glorify God.
- **John 6:31-35:** Jesus is the true bread from heaven. We can see that Christ is the bread of life.

4) Interpret (What It Means)

- **Christ judges and protects by His sword:**
The "two-edged sword" shows us the strength and power of Christ, the Word. In this context, there is pending judgment from Jesus' mouth; Christ knows our hearts and where we dwell. He knows the pressure that the church faced being where "Satan's throne is." Christ also protects with His own.
- **Your table and your body reveal your loyalty:**
Eating food sacrificed to idols is not just about diet or just another meal. Today, we may miss the point. These meals

mentioned, was participation in worship to another god. This led to sexual immorality, showing loyalty to another, idolatry. We cannot serve two masters. May we partake in meals towards God (communion) and may our bodies honor and glorify the Lord. Such actions reveal where our loyalty and devotion are.

- **Repent, remain, and receive:**

Christ comes to the church but wars against the compromisers with His word. Notice: he is coming with the sword to protect his own, but to war against the evil ones. Those who overcome (remain in Christ) receive hidden manna (God's provision and nourishment) and a white stone with a new name (salvation, new identity, full acceptance).

5) Apply (How We Live)

- **Repent and receive:**

If you do not know the Lord, repent (change your mind) and receive the gift of salvation by believing in Christ. In salvation, receive a new name, new identity, and sustenance from Christ. He offers hidden manna; spiritual nourishment that the world cannot provide.

- **Choose Christ's table; honor God with your body:**

Remain in Christ and stay away from any feast that functions as worship to another god. Present your body to the Lord through purity, integrity, and worship. Your body belongs to God.

- **Hold fast. Remain. Have confidence in Christ:**

May your words and deeds flow from your faith in Christ. Bear fruit and walk in holiness and allegiance to Christ.

Keep a small white stone (if desired) as a reminder of God's promises. May you live and love like Christ, even where Satan's throne is.

Ask yourself: What compromise will I abandon today so I can remain in Christ and receive what He promises?

Commitment Log (7 Days)

- **• Pray:** *"Lord Jesus, give me wisdom to see where I am compromising. Help me hold fast to Your name and receive the new identity You offer."*
 - **• Plan:** Choose **one** area where you'll refuse compromise this week. (*What table will you avoid? What boundary will you set?*)
 - **• Practice:** Daily examine: *Am I sitting at Christ's table or at an idol's table? Am I honoring God with my body?*
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6) Pray the Text (Revelation 2:12-17)

- **Praise:** *"Jesus, You hold the sharp two-edged sword. Your word discerns truth from deception. You know where we dwell and the pressures we face. We praise you!"*

- **Confession:** *"Forgive me for compromising with the world, for sitting at tables that dishonor You, for using my body in ways that don't glorify You."*
 - **Dependence:** *"Give me strength to repent and remain in You. Nourish me with hidden manna. Write Your new name on my heart."*
 - **Mission:** *"Use my faithfulness to encourage others to hold fast to You. Make me bold to stand firm even where Satan's throne is."*
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7) Life Stage Helps

- **Parents/Kids:** Discuss what it means to *"choose Christ's table."* Draw a picture of hidden manna and a white stone. Talk about the new name God gives us.
- **Couples/Roommates:** Where are we tempted to compromise as a household? Pray together for courage to hold fast to Christ's name.
- **Students/Young Adults:** Name one compromise you're facing; identify what "table" you need to avoid. Replace it with a spiritual discipline.
- **New to Faith:** Ask a mature believer: How do you honor God with your body? What boundaries have you set?

- **Singles/Widows/Seniors:** Read 1 Corinthians 10:18-21 and 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; write a prayer asking God to help you present your body as a living sacrifice.
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Notes / Questions