

Things Are Not as They Seem Hidden Manna and White Stones

Revelation 2:12–17 (NIV84) ¹² To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. ¹³ 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, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives. ¹⁴ Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality. ¹⁵ Likewise you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. ¹⁶ Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. ¹⁷ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it.

Notice again the pattern that is also repeated in the other six letters with minor variation:

1. Who the letter is to
2. Who it is from and a characteristic of Jesus that pertains to that church's situation
3. Acknowledgment of the positive achievements of that particular church
4. Words of encouragement
5. Warnings or advice
6. Exhortation to hear the words
7. A promise to those who listen.

Some of the biggest compromises in history have been from WITHIN the Church.

Compromise that had slipped into the church at Pergamum:

1. Teachings of Balaam and the Nicolaitans

2. Justification of Sexual immorality

“Once we soften our conscience by calling something a *necessary evil*, it begins to look more and more necessary and less and less evil.”

Several important points about sex:

1. There is no such thing as casual sex.
2. Sex is not just a biological physical act.
3. Sex is something beautiful God created.
4. Sex was designed for a committed marriage relationship.

CHRIST’S AMAZING ALTERNATIVE:

1. Manna
2. White stone

Rev 2:17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it.