

So. N. Feb 22, 81 H.M.  
N.W. March 17, 2001 am 1st day

Church one Ephesus - Temple of Diana  
The wonder of world - took one thing - left 1st love!

Two Smyrna - Sorrow,  
Tribulation - Ryeard burned  
at stake - No second death for  
Christians!

"WHERE SATAN'S SEAT IS"

Per-ga-mos. 3rd ch -

Rev. 2:12-17

The church rooted by God,  
can never be uprooted by man. \*  
Revelation to some, but they are; we  
never did it that way before!

#### INTRODUCTION:

The 7 last words of a church, may come as a new revelation to some, but they are; we

We have the record of his voice speaking to the individual church. The chief

city of emperor worship. It was natural for these Christians to receive persecution.

It was distinguished for three things - idolatry, learning, medical science, and at  
the same time - Christian power.

Pergamos is on the ancient site today called Bergama. Which is a Turkish  
corruption of the word. In that far away day, it was a most beautiful and illustrious  
city. It was built by a son of Hercules on a lofty hill in the broad fertile plains  
fifteen miles inland from the Aegean Sea. On the top there was a fortified Acropolis.  
The mighty General, Alexander-The-Great, established this as a capitol city. The  
Romans took the area and John wrote this letter to the church at Pergamos - which had  
been the capitol for more than 300 years.

When we say it was an imposing city or example, one of the most famous libraries  
had on its shelves more than 200,000 volumes. Which was immense in that ancient day.

Every volume had to be copied by hand. Education requires a lot of books,  
Wisdom requires a lot of time.

My Uncle Lela "How does it come you are so wise?"

Because, replied the Sage, I've got good Judgment.

Good Judgment comes from Experience, and Experience - Well, That Comes From Poor Judgment.

The use of parchment, of skins of animals, as writing material was invented in  
Pergamos. The word "parchment" comes from the town of Pergamos.

They export papyri. This was an ancient material used in making books. Our  
word paper comes from the Greek word Papyrus. It is a bull rush that grows along



the banks of the Nile. The pulp of which can be pounded down, woven, and sustains a writing pen. Today, for instance, when some of you graduated from college, you got a diploma. You called it a sheepskin. That refers to the material on which your diploma is written. The use of skin called parchment or vellum was invented by the librarians in Pergamos.

## I. Sharp Two Edged Sword. V.12

V. (12) - The Lord identifies himself as one who has a sharp two-edged sword.

Here is a picture of one who has the ability to protect, and at the same time - it has a symbol of power and judgement. He comes with the sword in his mouth. And he is going to make accurate judgement upon this city, and this town. Divine Word!

The Word is the sword & able to cut to the heart of men.

## II. A Sober Situation V.13

V. (13) - A very dangerous situation. The letter of our Lord begins with these words - "I know thy works and where thou dwellest even where Satan's seat is. And thou holdest fast my name and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was a faithful martyr, who was slain among you where Satan dwellest." That word translated - seat, where Satan's seat is. It is a Greek word used in the 19th chapter of Matthew which refers to the Judge. I know where you dwell! Where Satan's throne is. He is referring not only to the fact that these Christians live where Satan exists but they are actually dwelling where Satan has great power. And great authority.

What was Satan's throne or Satan's seat in that beautiful city. Well, it was found in the impressive temples that the Greeks built everywhere. There were four Greek Gods - Zeus. Another, Dionysius. Athena. Her name was Minerva. And here we have the Gods of wine, drama, of wisdom, of art, of war. And then there was the God, Aesculapius of healing.

One of the most famous medical schools in the world was here. And his emblem was

a serpent. In the courts of the temple, harmless snakes slithered on the ground. And sufferers came from the ends of the earth to sleep in this sanctuary -- if a sufferer happened to be touched by one of these snakes in the night - he was touched by the healing presence of the God. Much of what they call medicine, we today would call superstition. But this was a famous shrine of pagan worship.

And Satan's throne that we focus attention in this ancient wonder of the world - the altar of Zeus, was magnificently built. The largest and the most famous altar - 90 feet square. 40 Feet high. And a frieze at the base of it was very impressive in its ancient art.

The German government of the last century excavated here in Pergamos and they found a large part of this altar and it was in a museum in Berlin today. The great altar of sacrifice to Zeus. And it looks somewhat like a throne. And maybe that is the reference that our Lord has when he says, you dwell where Satan's seat is.

Another thing that we might say is that Satan's seat represented or referred to emperor worship. I touched on this in my last sermon. That in these different temples in the city, there was the dedication that enforced Caesar worship.

You will also notice in this verse that there was a faithful Martyr, Antipas. That he was faithful unto death. The point is that some Christians who had refused to worship at Satan's throne, had been faithful and had met death. The Christians that held fast to the name of Christ, and the big test as I pointed out - is Caesar Lord, or is our Lord, the Christ. If you acknowledge Caesar as Lord, you escape



persecution. But if you held fast for the Lord, the Christ, then you were persecuted. Christ commends the church for fidelity. Under this type of rule.

This man, had laid down his life.

Jesus said I know by works. Where Satan's seat is. There are two or three different words for dwell. That means to dwell as a foreigner or a stranger. That is, we are dwelling here in the earth as a pilgrim. Our other word is used for dwell for a permanent residence. I know where thou dwellest. Where Satan's seat is. When you think about that just a moment, you will understand why the Lord used this word. I know where you are staying - I know where your home is. I know where your house is. I know where you dwell. And you have to stay there - you cannot escape. You cannot run away - you cannot get away from this dangerous situation.

What a description of your life today -- in this sin cursed word. You cannot run away. There are many fine Christian men and a multitude of dedicated Christian women under situations that are trying. But they cannot run away. They have to dwell there. And they are my faithful martyrs - Jesus says.

### III. A Shrewd Scheme V. 14-16

V. 14 - He says I have a few things (against) thee.

The first thing is the doctrine of Balaam. This is a shrewd council - he was hired by Balak, the king, the curse Israel. He could not curse Israel - God would not let him do it. But he did something worse. He introduced them to strange moabite

women. These women did the work. They corrupted Israel. A thing that Balaam, himself, could not do. That is the method of Balaam. So the Lord says to the Christians in Pergamos, I have something against you. There are those in your midst who hold the doctrine of Balaam. They encourage you to eat things -- sacrifice to idols, and to commit fornication.

One of the amazing things, in the world at that time, was the philosophy of ethics. They had all sorts of art, science, and literature, but they looked upon prostitution as an acceptable way of life.

For example, Demosthenes said - we have prostitutes for the sake of pleasure. We have concubines for the sake of daily cohabitation. We have wives for the purpose of having children. And of having faithful guardians over our household affairs. That was the accepted pattern according to that ancient Greek orator.

From the writings of Cicero - there is a description that this was the accepted pattern of life. That young men were encouraged not to be forbidden to love a prostitute. When did anyone ever find fault with it. He was echoing the accepted way of life. Now there were those in the church who stood up and said -- that is the way to live. As anyone else lives around you. What do you want to do. Be cut off from society. Alienate yourself and your friends, or stick out like a sore thumb. Or to be a wall flower. Do you want to be something peculiar. So they said - that is the accepted standard of the world. That will be the accepted pattern of life for Christians. He was to have his prostitutes, his concubines, and that practice was taught and believed in by some in the church.

It would surprise you to know the number of people today, in our church, in every



church, who have the persuasion that we ought to go along with the crowd. Why certainly, do you think we would want to cut ourselves off from the social intercourse of people. The pattern of life calls for certain things - therefore, if we conform, we do not look peculiar. The same doctrine of Balaam is that of many people today.

And they were having problems with the matter of sacrifices offered to idols. The animals was not burnt - the priest would cut off a little bit and burn it. The animal however was sacrificed and offered on the altar. But it was always divided up into small portions. Some given to the priest, but most of it returned to the worshipper to eat. And always when the worshipper made his sacrifice, a part of the animal was burnt, a part given to the priest, and he called his family and friends in and they ate the sacrifice to the Gods. Now what was the matter with that. Why, would anybody be so narrow-minded or straight-laced as to refuse an invitation to come to such a meal.

*Should be*  
V. 15 - A second thing he says, I have against thee, is the doctrine of the Nicolaitans. Which thing, I hate, he says. Now these were identified along with those of Balaam. I have a few things against thee. Balaam taught them to commit fornication. And now we find that this doctrine was sensuality. It was carnal. It was lust. *Numbers 25:1-9*

Dr. G. Campbell Morgan says that the doctrine here is the type of doctrine of carnality. What did they believe. He said this, this thing I hate.

And this has a great significance in the word of God. The Nicolaitans had in that period, become married to the world. The church and the world were married



together. And it became wealthy and it became popular and the church enters the great field of power and politics. And men were seeking personal advancement and preference in the Roman government. And the idea here is that great masses of God's people were forgetting all about this. They were looking to the power of government. To forgive them for sins, to damn them to Hell, or to take care of them in life. And spiritual life had a tendency to degenerate. To lose its fresh thrust. The Bible says "Our wrestling is not against flesh & blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers, in this darkness, against the spiritual host of wickedness in heavenly places."

The church was no longer a channel or a company of believers. It was now a channel through which salvation was offered. And sometimes it was offered for sale.

Let me point out what happened here when the church became married to the world. Constantine, who became an unconverted and unbaptized Christian in the early part of the 4th Century. The Roman Caesar died and left a question, who was successor. And so they named Constantine in about 312 A. D. And that night, he introduced somewhat to Christianity, and made a vow saying if he should be victorious, tomorrow - in a certain battle that he would become a Christian. The next day when the battle was over, by noon day, he saw a flaming cross in the sky. In any event, the vision was supposed to have said unto him, in this sign you conquer. Well, he won the war. And he became the soul Caesar to the Roman empire. And he embraced nominally the Christian faith. And so, Christians no longer were persecuted at that time. Because they became popular. And he had people who were Christians but some of them turned their temples into churches. No longer the image of Jupiter, but they put in these temples the images of saints. This took place over night. As the power of politics took over.

He kept all of his heathen pagan superstitions. And second, he planned to combine



the worship of Christ with the worship of Apollo. For example, on his coins, he had the picture of Apollo. Then, he had the name of Christ. This was so decreed in 321 A. D.

So ultimately the doctrine developed. If you are a Christian - it doesn't make any difference what you do. You take part in the feasts, in the sacrifice to idols. And all that is going on in this world in the power of politics. And so against this background, this Spirit came to call people back to a personal religion. Because, you know, we are not saved this way.

Now a word about living where Satan's seat is. Let it stand here - Satan has a throne - it is in this earth. It is in this city. When Lucifer fell from Heaven, he dragged down 1/3 of the angelic hosts and built his kingdom. There are evil spirits. Sometimes it is the spirit of rejection, of unbelief, of blasphemy, the evil spirit of covetousness, hatred, lust, murder, that destroys and wastes.

The opposition in the church at Pergamos, is that Satan invites the church and the people of God to share with him in the glamorous and the glitter of things in the world. He says, if you will bow down and worship me, the riches of this world, I will give them to you.

*A Living Church is one that remembers the past, lives in the present & works for the future.*

Sometimes I think that we live in the city where Satan's seat is. Now I know, there is evil in the country. I know there is evil out in the rural areas where I grew up. And I know that there is no evil like the vice and the iniquity that I have discovered in the city. There are sins, gross sins, that I never heard of until I came to live in the city. In the great city, you find vice, iniquity,



A Hearse in a poor vehicle to start assembly church in  
If your Religion doesn't take you to Church, it  
it is doubtful if it will take you to Heaven.

ludeness, wickedness. And sin becomes a thousand times more destructive and wasteful

-- in the sacrifice of young lives on the altar of Satan. No wonder the city must  
cause God to weep. Satan offers empty pleasure. I know in the country, they have

their bootleggers, years ago. And everyone knew who the man was. And those who  
were desirous of it, under darkness could do business with him. But one has never

seen liquor at its height in the power except in the city. The money, and its

revenue as it comes. If there were as many idle parts in an automobile  
as members in the church, the automobile could not run downhill.

I read the account of a court record proceeding which sounded like it was  
taken from Satan's home. What is your name, my woman, and where were you born.

She answered, my name is Eileen Burn. And I was born in Aberdeen, off the

Scotland coast land. Miracles do happen - Scheme of Satan

Preacher Ernest Thorne - Holding Revival in school house at foot of Mt.,  
3rd night of Revival a man waited for me at " " door. We got trouble  
And you are charged with striking a man.

Over by trees a group of men who have terrorized the country side -  
They are all moonshiners + they don't want a church there - They are here  
to break up the meeting. Preacher gathered little group inside Pray.

I am, your honor.

I felt God with me walked over to group under trees + ask if leader  
would talk - man stood - Talk alone 2 min - away from group - under  
you plan to break up the Revival. - That's right - Proposition - I usually preach  
an hour. Let me preach 1/2 sermon, stop - then you can break up meeting.

McGinnis here, testifies that he never layed a hand on you, returned the Judge.  
Everybody is afraid of you - Tell us get out - whole group came in Rally!

1/2 - Held watch shall stop - if want me finish, hold up hands, every hand  
gang went up - Sermon over, bowed prayer - if any one not happy  
He stabbed me in the heart, your Honor, stabbed you!  
with life + would like sin forgiven raise your hand, leader held his  
a few others - after service - a few, sat in corner, leader? would  
God forgive a man who had killed another man? - Am you!

Suppose you explain.

Tell me the truth, been sorry since I killed him + face in hands  
wept. - We had best Revival in my life - Satan loved worse -

I will. You might know what was your Honor, to have one lovely lad and none

else. I left the good father of my lad asleeping in the church yard. I brought

my wee boy to this land. For many a year, I toiled in the sun, and shade for my



... I know it is not quite fashionable to talk about the devil today.

Men don't believe in a devil now,  
As their fathers used to do;  
They reject one creed because it's old  
For another because it's new.

There's not a print of his cloven foot,  
Nor a fiery dart from his bow,

To be found in the earth or air today!  
At least—they declare it is so!

But who is it mixes the fatal draught  
That palsies heart and brain  
And loads the bier of each passing year  
With its hundred thousand slain?

But who blights the bloom of the land today  
With the fiery breath of hell?  
If it isn't the devil that does the work,  
Who does? Won't somebody tell?

Who dogs the steps of the toiling saint?  
Who spreads the net for his feet?  
Who sows the tares in the world's broad field  
Where the Saviour sows His wheat?

If the devil is voted not to be,  
Is the verdict therefore true?  
Someone is surely doing the work  
The devil was thought to do.

They may say the devil has never lived,  
They may say the devil is gone;  
But simple people would like to know  
Who carries the business on.

I shall follow exactly the same method as I have followed in the previous two lectures, speaking first of the devil as he is revealed to us in Scripture; second, of the devil as opposed to religion; third, of the relation between the world, the flesh, and the devil; and, last, of the way of victory over the devil.

The personality of Satan is revealed as distinctly in the New Testament as is the personality of Jesus Christ. To deny the one is to deny the other. In casting out demons Christ perpetually addressed Himself to them as to definite personalities, possessing men, and all through that New Testament



winsome boy, and he grew to be a fine, tall gentleman. And was taken to a store to work. Then this man, McGinnis, set an evil eye on this boy and I was forced to pass his Den on my way to and from the bread store. He minded and I hated to look upon his place.

One morning as I passed by he said, I needed to be so grand about my boy. He was not above taking a drink of liquor with the rest. I begged my boy for the love of God to let the stuff alone. Robbie promised to abide by my wishes. This man, McGinnis, watched for the night when it was cold and stormy, and gave the lad a drink to warm him. He would say, I got on my knees to the boy, and plead with him to pass that place no more. But to go home by some other road.

Then I went myself, to the man, and perhaps you can understand how a mother would beg and pray -- for the bone of her bone and the flesh of her flesh. But he laughed in my face. Last night, your Honor, the noise at my front door frightened me. With all my might, to see what was the trouble.

Me, Robbie, swayed into the room and fell at my feet. He was drunk, your Honor.

When McGinnis poked his face in at the door, and said - what think you now, Mrs. Burn. Did I mean to strike the man, your Honor.

If I could have struck the breath out of his body, you had better keep me with lock and key until my gloom dies down. But oh Judge, Judge, I wish my son and my lad were in the church yard beside the good father. They tell me if I could prove the man sold liquor to the boy under age - the law could stop him. I tell you Judge, there is naught but God's vengeance can stop his like. It was enough to arrest the

mother that strikes the man, who ruins her child. But wait until the Lord, God, Almighty. Wake for that!

If the liquor interests did not teach our young people to drink, they would soon run out of business. So they use every way to teach. So the young people come and they pour into this city, where Satan presides.

A young man one time said that he was ruined because some preacher told him that it was no harm for a man to drink. Provided that he didn't drink too much. So the boy took his advice. And he became the one out of every nine that drinks that becomes an alcoholic. Remember that, one of every nine cannot leave it alone. 500,000 every year turn into destruction and on the downward road. Where Satan's seed is. Now that boy's blood will be on the hand of that man who told him that.

I would say, young man, do not drink. As that dear Scotch mother fell down before her son and pleaded. You pass it by. Give it up. Jesus says you cannot serve God and mammon at the same time.

The strange thing that the Lord says here, to the angel of the Pastor of the church, in Pergamos wrote -- I know where you dwell. Where Satan has his throne.

Of all places where is God's church but there. It is located where Satan has his throne. Where the heathen worship of Zeus and Apollos with sinful rights - surely you would not find a church in a place like that.



What . . . trying to have a church located in that difficult place. But there is a place that it is most needed.

And God established his church where Satan's throne is. But that is where it is needed to be - in the midst of the monument of wealth, industry, of commerce - right down in the district where there are movie houses. And where the passing throngs of humanity can see. Satan has a throne but there is the church of Jesus Christ. And he says, I know thy works where you live.

One last word, he said to them - and hast not denied my faith. V. 13. How do we deny the faith in the city where Satan's throne is. By refusing to confess it, by being hush, hush. I am a Christian. I am a Christian of this precious church - South Norfolk Baptist. I wouldn't let anybody know that. Christ said, I know where you dwell, where Satan has his throne. But though hast not denied my faith.

The world says, just deny that you are a Christian and we will receive you. You do violence to your great commitment - you go out here and join every club, in this town, and you put your life in these hands. That is exactly what Satan is telling you to do. But the Christian ought to answer - if I starve to death, I will not compromise. That is Christ's faithful witness. That is the faithful martyr. I am a Christian, I have been baptized, with obedience. And, how do we deny the faith by forsaking it. By quitting it. We can do it individually. Many a fine Christian family comes into the city and they are lost to God. Many a man who once served Jesus has forsaken the faith. Many a youth, who started out as a teenager - but has now sold out to sin. And his heart is out in the world somewhere.

Our Saviour weeps over great cities of this world. Do not persuade yourself that this city here - even though it empties itself of population - and others come in. But the cities are increasing. Every day, that I drive up and down the streets of this city, and to this church. There are dwellings and there are multiple apartments, and they continue to increase.

## III. A Solemn Season V. 16

But sometimes, the church of Jesus Christ, goes farther out in the country and way way out and away from the city.

A Boston pastor once said, only two churches remain on the ground first occupied for the Gospel in Boston. And that is true in most cities. The church comes on hard times, and it is difficult to labor in the church, it is easier to move out and leave the population and forsake them where Satan's seat is.

The Lord said, I understand the trials of the church and the heart of the city. I know her perils and I know her difficulties. And he looks and challenges every inch of ground that Satan battles for. I think these fine young men that we have got and beautiful girls in our city ought to be dedicated to Christ and not to Satan.

1. Sharp 2 edged sword v. 12 2. A Sabre Situation V. 13  
3. Shrewd Scheme v. 14-15 4. A Solemn Season v. 16  
5. Significant Security v. 17

God has set his church, even us, where Satan's seat is. That we might build up the household of faith in the name of his spirit and conquer for Jesus Christ.

Significant Security V. 17. Invited to Hear the Spirit  
Hospital Needs A Man's Ear!

In V. 17 - he says, I have a promise for you. I am going to give you the hidden

mama - the one that has an ear to hear and will listen to me. I am going to give you



Tabernacle was built

the hidden manna. And he names it - you remember the golden pot of manna, was layed up before God in the Ark.' And Christ became that true bread from Heaven and he is the life that sustains us. All around them people were eating, drinking, according to the customs around Satan's throne. But he says now, I am going to give you the hidden manna. I am going to give you some angel food. Psalm 78 - some corn from Heaven. Ex. 16:4 - Bread from Heaven. And when it comes down from Heaven and you gather it up, you will not share with the social life in your city. God will do something for you that you will be willing to cut yourself off the compromises of the world - and he is going to give you something better. He says, I am going to give you a white stone. And that refers to acquittal. From God concerning our sins. It is the Judge and the Jury - has set you free. They have dropped the charges. You are no longer condemned but you are going to be given a white stone. And that will have your new name upon it. And the most magnificent thing about this is - he says no man knoweth saying he that receiveth.

No Blacks Ball -

Now that sounds complex and mysterious - who knows whether or not you are a Christian? - is the man who has received it! You know in your own heart that here is the transforming power. Which has taken place in your heart.

Far Away the noise of strife upon my ear is falling,  
Then I know the sins of earth beset on every hand;  
Doubt and fear and things of earth in vain are calling,  
None of these shall move me from Beulah land,  
I'm living on the mountain, underneath a cloudless sky,  
I'm drinking at the fountain that never shall run dry, (Praise God!)  
O yes!  
I'm feasting on the MANNA from a bountiful supply  
So I am dwelling in Beulah land!