**Main Thought** Jesus Christ accurately inspects (2:23) his churches with “x-ray” vision – looking not on the externals but on the internals.

**Pergamum – the Compromising Church** (12-17).

- **• 20 miles from the Aegean, the most prominent city in Asia Minor.**
- **• Located on a hill, it had a university, library (200,000 volumes), many temples including the Asklepios whose god was a serpent (Satan? – 12:9, 15; 20:2).**

**Appraiser** (12).
- The words of Christ are the sharp, the double-edged, the sword (1:16).
- This SWORD (16; 6:8; 19:15, 21; Heb. 4:12) separates the good from the bad.

**Approval** (13).
- “I know where you live” (Psa. 139:1, 7) shows Jesus knows your difficult circumstances for Satan was even worshiped there (Asklepios Temple).
- You are to REMAIN TRUE (hold fast – 25; 3:11) and fear not Caesar’s sword but Christ’s sword.
- This was exemplified in Antipas who was put to death for refusing to renounce his faith (Matt. 10:33).
- He proved a FAITHFUL WITNESS (GK = martyr = martyr, witness).

**Accusation** (14-15).
- Their big temptation was FOOD and SEX – the big draw at pagan temples of worship (1 Cor. 10:6-8). This was the same in Baalam’s day (Num. 25:1-3).
- Apparently there were those in the church who were not faithful like Antipas but compromised their faith to FIT IN by worshiping the imperial cult (Prov. 1:10; 1 Cor. 15:33).
- Unlike the Ephesians (6), they gave in to the Nicolaitans who taught it was permissible for saved people to live like unsaved people. [Jam. 4:4].
- The WAY OF BALAAM (2 Pet. 2:15-16) and the ERROR OF BALAAM (Jude 11) are still with us today.

“Brethren, beware. See how a man may be going on uttering fine words, orthodox truths, and yet be rotten at the heart.” **British Minister F.W. Robertson**

**Admonition** (16-17).
- REPENT – admit it, confess it, stop it (Acts 26:20). No more denial, rationalization, or excuses (Rom. 1:18). You answer to Christ (Rom. 8:31).
- The hidden manna (heavenly – Psa. 78:24) is in contrast to pagan food (14).
- The white stone (ACQUITTAL) has Christ’s name on it (3:12).