

The Church of Pergamos 2



Read *The 7 Church Harvest – Part 4* (CBCG, 2000).

Read *Revelations 2:12-17*. Below, review & list the strengths & weaknesses of the Church of Pergamos according to scripture.

Strengths: _____

Weaknesses:



Pergamos

Based on scripture, Pergamos was known for several negative things:

1. Teachings of _____
2. Deeds of the _____
3. An established hierarchy within the church



Teachings of Balaam

Teachings of Balaam: bring everyone together for the same worship even though they worshipped different gods

Why was this wrong in God's eyes?

How is this happening again today?

This is called e _ _ _ m _ _ _ _ _ m.

Deeds of the Nicolaitans: changed the nature of the worship of God & the importance of the 10 commandments; instituted a hierarchy

Why was this wrong in God's eyes?

**This eventually became the basis for today's _____
& _____ religions.**

Can this happen in the church today? _____

What is wrong with establishing a hierarchy in the church?

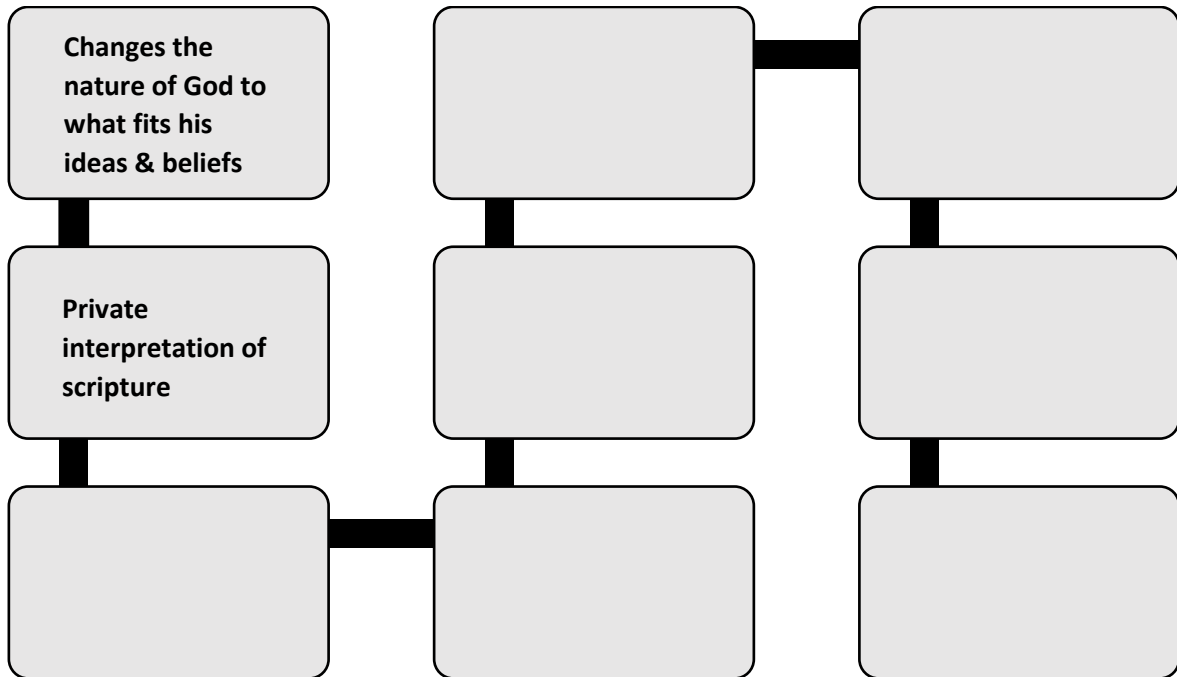
"Minister" means "s _ _ _ v _ _ _ _ of the people".

Who did the Nicolaitans feel needed God's laws?



Results of Keeping One Foot in the World

Fill in the progression described in the passage showing what happens when a believer fails to commit 100% to doing things God's way.



Comfort of the World
Spiritual Laziness



Devotion to God
Spiritual Zeal

Where are you on this continuum today?

The fear of God is important because it keeps us from

Our responsive acts toward God determine our direction.

Which direction are you moving? (circle one)

toward God

away from God

Complete the T-chart by filling in acts we do that result in closeness to God or slipping away. Place a star next to things those in Pergamos were doing that drew them away from God.

Fellowship with God	Slipping Away from God



True or False?

- _____ God is a jealous God.
- _____ The church of Pergamos was following Balaam.
- _____ God is lenient when He knows the things of this world can get in the way.
- _____ Developing a close personal relationship with God helps to keep you from worshipping other things or people.
- _____ Angels rule over us.
- _____ We should compare ourselves with those in the world.



Eucharist

What is the eucharist?

God views taking the eucharist as spiritual _____.

Why?

What are 2 religions that do this?

Why do we commemorate the death of Christ only once a year?

On which Holy Day do we do this? _____



True or False?

___ The messenger to Pergamos was an angel of God.

___ The true Christians in Pergamos left the church.

___ A hierarchy is a sign of a Church of God.

___ It is ok to worship with Catholics because God knows our hearts.

___ Gnostic religions essentially worship man.

___ Committing fornication is both physical & spiritual.

___ Men can call people to God.

___ Mixing pagan & Christian practices pleases God.



Gnosticism

What is the focus of Gnosticism?

Why is Gnosticism harmful to God's true church?

Choose 1 in each set to make the sentence true.

*Gnosticism claim (God, freedom, Holy Spirit), but reject the
(Law of God, love of God, love of life).*

What is an example of a gnostic religion of today?

If you are good enough, you can actually save yourself.

True

False

There is no hard & fast definition of moral authority.

True

False

According to Gnostics, who defines our moral authority?



Gnostic Teachings

Check those that reflect gnostic teachings today.

- Once saved, always saved.
- Only those who obey God's commands will be saved.
- When you die, you will go to heaven.
- Jesus died on the cross & has fulfilled all of the commandments.
- Being a good person puts you in right standing with God.
- God never changes.
- God understands the heart, so don't worry about sin.
- Some disobedience is acceptable to God.
- Follow your heart.
- We all create our own sense of morality.
- We can save ourselves.
- We don't have to agree on what is right & wrong – it's ok to create your own laws that you live by every day.
- Man is inherently evil.
- Man is mostly good & well-intentioned.
- Do not judge others according to God's standards.
- Every man should be free to do his own thing.
- Lawlessness is not abiding by your own rules & ideas.
- Be true to yourself (rather than God).



Learning from Pergamos

Place one lesson we can learn from Pergamos in each shape below.

Why does God let the wicked prosper?

What does God advise to those at Pergamos?
