

Smearred Smyrna and Permissive Pergamos (Rev 2:8-17)

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Water of Life Bible Class

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INTRODUCTION

REMEMBERING THE SEVEN CHURCHES

Every small person that sings, phones loudly.
Ephesus Smyrna Pergamos Thyatira Sardis, Philadelphia Laodicea.

SMEARED SMYRNA (Rev 2:8-11)

Jesus told the teaching elder at Smyrna that He is eternal and rose from the dead (2:8)

He knows his works, suffering, and poverty (though he is rich) and the slander he faced (2:9)

Don't fear coming persecution, but stay faithful unto death to receive the crown of life (2:10)

The overcomer will certainly not be hurt by the second death (2:11)

Does this verse say that non-overcoming believers will be hurt by it?

This verse uses a figure of speech called *litotes* (Winning the Superbowl is no small feat).

The first death will hurt him briefly, but the second will have no effect on him.

PERMISSIVE PERGAMOS (Rev 2:12-17)

Jesus, the judge with a sharp double-edged sword, knows the works of the teaching elder of Pergamos (2:12-13a)

He also knows that (though) Pergamos is a satanic stronghold, the teaching elder has held fast to Jesus' name, not denying the faith, when Antipas was martyred (2:13b)

Jesus warns the teaching elder about his tolerance of those holding the idolatrous doctrine of Balaam and that of the Nicolaitans (2:14-15)

The teaching elder must repent [by dealing with those holding to the doctrine of Balaam and with the Nicolaitans] or Jesus will (2:16)

The overcomer will eat of the hidden manna and will receive a white stone with a new name unknown to all but its recipient (2:17)

CONCLUSION