



Antipas: A Light In The Darkness

REVELATION 2:12-17

12 “Write to the angel of the church in Pergamum: Thus says the one who has the sharp, double-edged sword: **13** I know where you live—where Satan’s throne is. Yet you are holding on to my name and did not deny your faith in me, even in the days of **Antipas**, my faithful witness who was put to death among you, where Satan lives. **14** But I have a few things against you. You have some there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to place a stumbling block in front of the Israelites: to eat meat sacrificed to idols and to commit sexual immorality. **15** In the same way, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. **16** So repent! Otherwise, I will come to you quickly and fight against them with the sword of my mouth. **17** Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name is inscribed that no one knows except the one who receives it.

Will our faith shine in the shadows, or will it flicker out when the darkness presses in?

Big Idea: Faithfulness in the shadows is what makes the light of Christ shine the brightest.

① A City of Darkness (12-13a) Faith shines brightest where the world is darkest.

12 “Write to the angel of the church in Pergamum: Thus says the one who has the sharp, double-edged sword: **13** I know where you live—where Satan’s throne is.

- The Setting: Where Satan Dwells

Pergamum was a spiritually dark and hostile city.

Satan is active in our world and he has a seat of power somewhere.

(Ephesians 6:12) For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens.

(1 Peter 5:8) “Be sober-minded, be alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour.”

Jesus doesn’t ignore the difficulty of the places we’re called to live and serve — He knows exactly where we are and what it costs to follow Him there.

- The Encouragement: Light Still Shines

The darker the world becomes, the more powerful even a small light appears.

God often plants His people in the darkness so that the light of the gospel can shine through them.

- The Call: Don't Flee — Shine!

Faithfulness doesn't mean escape from dark places, but endurance within them.

② A Church Under Pressure (13b-16) The name we hold must match the life we live.

13b Yet you are holding on to my name and did not deny your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness who was put to death among you, where Satan lives. **14** But I have a few things against you. You have some there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to place a stumbling block in front of the Israelites: to eat meat sacrificed to idols and to commit sexual immorality. **15** In the same way, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. **16** So repent! Otherwise, I will come to you quickly and fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

- Commendation: Faithfulness under Fire (13)

Faith that stays quiet in comfort will collapse under pressure; faith that clings and confesses stands firm when tested.

Are we building a faith that's beautiful in fair weather — or one that's unshakable when the storm hits?

- Confrontation: Compromise within the Camp (14-15)

Where Satan dwells, holiness still matters. True grace never excuses sin — it empowers us to overcome it. Christ calls His people not to accommodate the world, but to live distinct from it.

- Call: Repent & Return (16)

What we refuse to confront, Christ will. And it is always better to repent voluntarily than to be rebuked forcibly.

③ A Witness That Shines (13,17) Those who stand firm in the shadows will share in the light of Christ's reward.

13 ... even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness who was put to death among you, where Satan lives... **17** Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name is inscribed that no one knows except the one who receives it.

We know almost nothing about Antipas, but that's the point — Jesus does.

God may not spare His people from suffering, but He will never overlook their faithfulness in it.

Faithfulness may cost you earthly comfort, but Christ Himself will satisfy your soul.

The world may forget your name, but Christ will never forget your faithfulness — and He will give you a new name that will never fade.

We need never fear that our sacrifices for Him are in vain. He sees the mall and will reward them openly some day!

NEXT STEPS

- ① Ask God to show you where you can shine.
- ② Identify and reject areas of compromise.
- ③ Cling to Christ and confess Him openly.