

# Westwood Baptist Church



Grounded. Growing. Going.

## Worship Guide for February 7, 2021

### Sermon Notes

#### **The Compromising Church**

Revelation 2: 12-16 (pew Bible pg. 1029)

Jesus loves his bride, the church, both the universal church and each faithful local church. What does Jesus see in his church that he loves it so much? He knows each church, with its flaws, weaknesses, its compromises, and failures, and yet he loves, pursues, and shepherds it anyway. His blazing eyes see his church perfectly and eternally. He loves his church with a timeless perspective that looks back into eternity before God spoke this universe into existence. *"....he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. (Ephesians 1:4).* When Jesus looks at his church, he sees what divine love has bought with a price so high, with blood so holy, with a redemptive purpose so amazing that the angels stand in awe and stare at it with wonder (I Peter 1:12). He sees his church as a radiant bride standing before him cleansed, unblemished, and faultless.

This is why he walks within his church and guards her with a jealous passion. This is what we see in chapters 2 and 3 of Revelation. Jesus is eternally devoted to his church, his bride, and he demands her devotion as well. His heart is not distracted - not divided in his affection toward us, and he will not abide our distracted and divided hearts. When he sees it, he calls it out. He calls out the church who is doing many good things but has forsaken its first love (like Ephesus). In today's passage, he sees and commends the church who publicly stands for Christ in the face of severe opposition. He also looks within this church and sees a serious problem. The greatest danger this church faces is not on the outside, it is on the inside. "Our greatest threats to spiritual health and life are not opposition or even persecution from unbelieving, evil, and wicked men energized by Satan. Rather, it is when we allow into our community of faith spiritual Trojan horses that will sow seeds of destruction given the opportunity. Now, this toxin is easy to identify with a simple word: compromise. Nothing will poison the body of Christ like the poison called compromise." (Akin)

Jesus takes spiritual compromise very seriously, so much so that he wars against the unrepentant compromising church. We should take these six verses as seriously as our Lord does. We live in a Pergamum culture, but we must not be a Pergamum church.

Jesus sees the external opposition we face – and commends our faithful stand against it.

Jesus sees the internal dangers we face – and condemns our tolerance and compromise with it.

Jesus offers the gift of repentance – and warns us of his judgment if we refuse it.

Jesus gives his promise of reward – and nothing in this world can compare to it.

# Weekly Discipleship Guide

## Sunday

*In your journal, reflect on today's sermon by answering the following:*

I never knew:

I was challenged:

I was reminded:

I was convicted:

A question I still have:

A truth I could share:

**Know**

## Monday

*Spend some time today doing the following:*

Read the sermon passage again.

Select a portion of this week's sermon passage to memorize this week.

Write your selected portion and read it to yourself at least 10 times throughout the day.

**Know > Be**

## Tuesday

*In your journal, spend some time writing about the following:*

Read the sermon passage again.

Write a prayer of response, guided by the passage.

(May include adoration, confession/repentance, thanksgiving, petition, etc...)

Write your selected portion of the Scripture several times to aid in memorization.

**Be**

## Wednesday

*Think about this week's questions for group discussion:*

What are some "blind spots" we tend to have within the church when it comes to areas of compromise? How do we intentionally protect against becoming blind to these areas and falling into them?

In our specific culture, how do we go about balancing love and grace with 'tolerance' and theological compromise? Why is it dangerous to fervently pursue the latter to the neglect of the former?

Why is a merely privatized faith not an option for the genuine believer? How can this in itself lead to spiritual and theological compromise?

**Be > Do**

## Thursday

*In your journal, spend some time considering the following:*

What insights have you had while internalizing this week's passage?

How specifically will you seek to apply its truths in your home/workplace/life in general?

**Do**

*\*Use this guide to help you internalize this week's passage & message.*

### Westwood Staff

**Gerald Hodges:** Lead Pastor

**Jonathan Taylor:** Associate Pastor

**Jim Fulp:** Counseling Pastor

**Jason Engle:** Pastor of Students  
& Discipleship

**Katie Austin:** Children's Ministry  
Coordinator

### Contact Us

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### Church Office Hours

**Monday - Friday**

**8:00am - 1:00pm**

***Other times by appointment.***

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