

# Back to the Future

Revelation 2:12-17

- **Revelation** means to “uncover” or “unveil”
  - **Author:** John the Beloved
  - **Date for writing:** 95-96 AD
    - **Place:** Island of Patmos

## I. The City (2:12)

- Pergamum was founded in 1000 BC
- Pergamum was the center of culture, religion, and intellectual education
- Pergamum was 70 miles north of Smyrna and 15 miles inland
- Parchment on animal skins was invented here (they had the second largest library in the world)



# I. The City (2:12)

➤ The city had four main temples:

- a. The Alter to Zeus – it was made of white stone and at a distance made the city look like a large throne.
- b. Asclepius – the god of healing
- c. Dionysus – the god of grape harvest
- d. Temple to Athena



## **II. The Commendation (2:13)**

- A. The church is working in the city that Satan dwells.**
- B. The church is enduring persecution and suffering.**
- C. The church is standing firm in the faith despite pluralism. They have not lost their first love.**

### III. The Condemnation (2:14-15)

- A. The doctrine in the church was compromised.
- B. The people of the church lowered their standards in order to get along with a few. Most in the church did not participate, but tolerated the ones teaching false doctrine.
- C. The church's compromise caused God to make war with the church.



## **IV. The Command (2:16)**

### **A. REPENT**

**B. Refusal to Repent meant death. John 12:47-48**

### **C. There is no compromising God's Word**

- Compromise with sin
- Compromise our time
- Compromise our family
- Compromise our speech
- Compromise at church

## **V. The Comfort (2:17)**

- A. “Hidden Manna” represents the Bread of Life; eternal fellowship**
- B. “White Stone” represents acquittal; voting privileges**
- C. “New Name” represents genuine membership in the community of believers**