

## Antipas - cont.

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He also did not give up on the truth in the midst of worldliness (Jude 3-4).

Fourth, Antipas was a “witness” (martyr) for Christ. He was a faithful one (Revelation 17:6). He died like Christ died (Revelation 1:5) and he died for Christ like Stephen died (Acts 22:20). He was “faithful unto (the point of) death” (Revelation 2:10).

Antipas is a great example for us today. He lived in the town where the Great Altar of Zeus was visited daily by many idolatrous worshippers. Yet, he lived and died faithfully for the Lord. Let us remember that Jesus knows where we live and how we are responding to our surroundings (Job 23:10; 1 Corinthians 3:12-15).

Let us also remember that Satanic influence around us is no excuse for sin. Antipas was faithful and so we can be faithful! The name “Antipas” means “against all”. He stood against all, even Satan! And you can too! Satan still rages against the Lord’s people today, seeking their destruction. But, you, like Antipas can stand against him.

- Chris Reeves -

## Sentence Sermons

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- Others may destroy your reputation, but only you can destroy your character.
- Salvation is free, but it’s not cheap.
- The person who eats his/her own words rarely asks for another serving.
- Sin will cause the cup of joy to spring a leak.
- Buy the truth and sell it not.

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# THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.  
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

## Antipas My Faithful Witness

*“And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These things says he that has the sharp two-edged sword: I know where you dwell, even where Satan’s throne is; and you hold fast my name, and did not deny my faith, even in the days of Antipas my witness, my faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells”*

- Revelation 2:12-13 -

The words “where Satan’s throne is” and “where Satan dwells” in the Bible passage above is probably a reference to the Great Altar of Zeus in Pergamum. The Great Altar of Zeus was discovered in Pergamum by the German, Carl Humann, in 1871-1878. The present location of this great altar is in the Pergamum Museum, Berlin. The large marble base was 120 ft wide and 112 ft deep with 5 steps. There was a square “horseshoe” colonnade on top and an altar for burnt offerings was in the courtyard.

The Great Altar of Zeus served as the altar for the Temple of Athena (goddess of war, wisdom, strength) and the Temple of Zeus (king or father of all gods / goddesses). It was built by King Eumenes II in 197 – 159 B.C.. It was constructed of marble.

There were many Ionic columns and over 100 elaborate carved friezes of Greek gods and goddesses.

When this altar was built, the time was the height of Pergamum’s power in Asia Minor. This town was known for its political control, military, arts, economy, culture, education, and, of course, pagan idolatry. Under Roman rule (c. 133 B.C.), Pergamum was a key site for Emperor (Caesar) worship and the worship of Zeus, Athena, Dionysus, and Asklepios.



Photo by Chris Reeves, May, 4, 2010  
Pergamum Museum, Berlin

In the first century, there was a New Testament church (assembly) of Christians in Pergamum and Antipas was one of its members. Let us consider a few great characteristics of this Christian.

First, Antipas was faithful in the midst of Satan’s influence (Satan’s throne, Satan dwells). The Great Altar of Zeus was in his own town! Yet, he made the choice to serve God over Satan (Revelation 2:9,24; 3:9). He did not allow Satan to influence him (Romans 12:1) and he did not love the world of Satan (1 Jn. 2:15).

Second, Antipas held fast the name (person, character) of Jesus in the midst of persecution (Matthew 10:32; 24:9; Acts 9:14; James 2:7). Local Christians would have been persecuted for not worshipping at the Great Altar. Antipas did not simply believe something *about Christ*, he *lived Christ*; he held fast the word of Christ (Luke 8:15; 1 Corinthians 11:2; 15:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:21; 2 Thessalonians 2:15). He held on to the Head – Christ (Colossians 2:19) and he held on to the end of his faith (Hebrew 3:6; 3:14; 4:14; 10:23; Revelation 2:25; 3:11).

Third, Antipas did not deny the *person* of Christ, or the *doctrine* (my faith) of Christ (Revelation 3:8; 14:12; 1 Timothy 5:8; 2 Tim. 2:12). He did not live hypocritically (Titus 1:16). He did not give in to error (2 Peter 2:1).