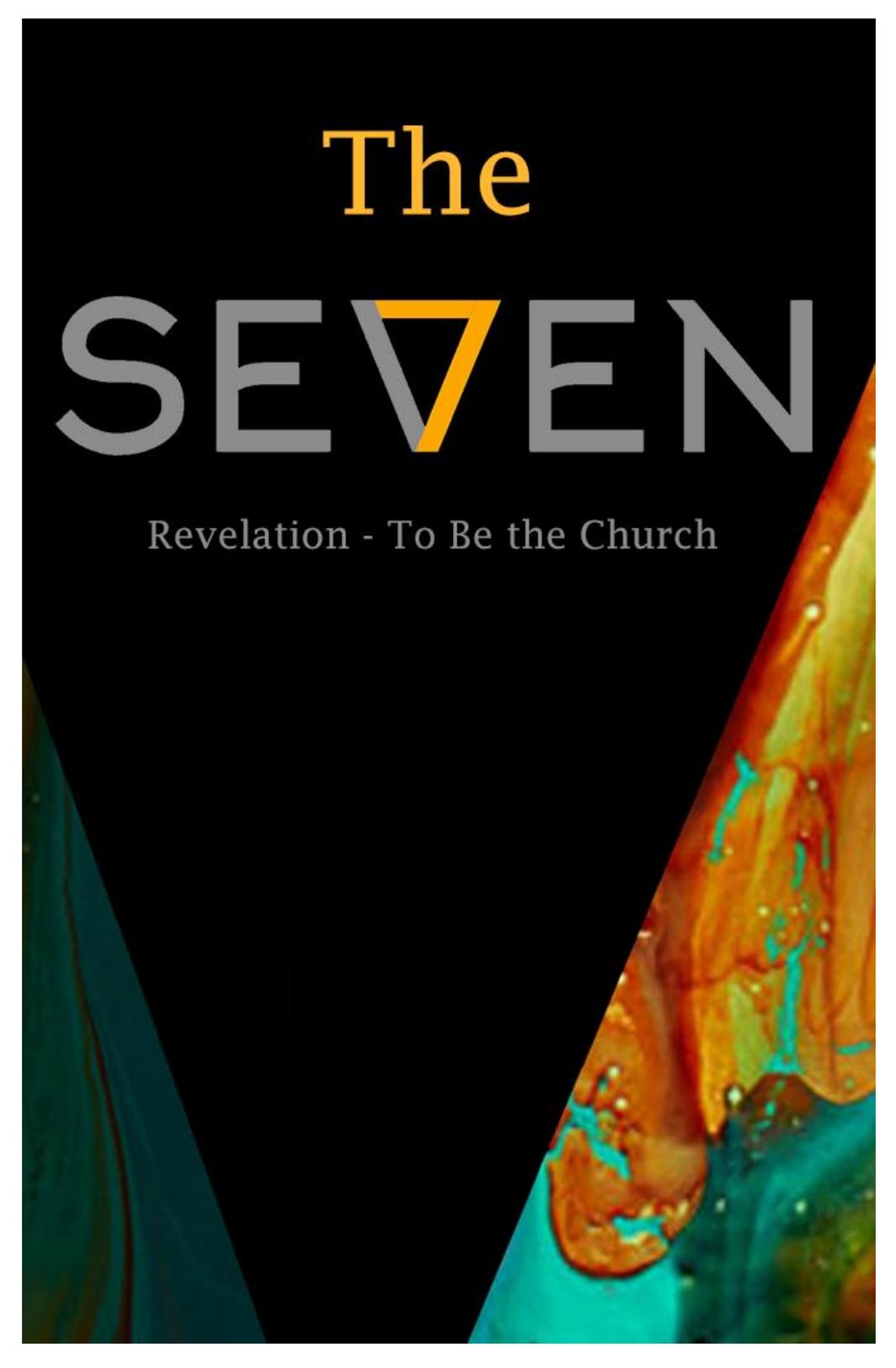


The

# SEVEN

Revelation - To Be the Church



# WELCOME TO GRACE UNION

WHAT'S HAPPENING TODAY  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2017

- ➔ Praise & Worship
- ➔ Welcome/Announcements
- ➔ Offering
- ➔ Message: Pastor Bob Poley



Thank you for joining us today! If this is your first time with us, please stop by the Welcome table in the lobby for a free gift. We'd love to meet you.

## NEWS & EVENTS

### ELEMENTARY CHRISTMAS REHEARSALS - TODAY

Practices for the Elementary Christmas Program are held EACH SUNDAY right after service. Pick-up is at 1 p.m. We will provide light snacks. If you have any questions, please contact Mindy Adams at [mindyadams82@gmail.com](mailto:mindyadams82@gmail.com).

### GU SMALL GROUPS

#### MARRIED COUPLES' GROUP - TONIGHT, 5 pm

This group is led by Shane and Jennifer Cox and meets biweekly at their home on Sunday evenings. Please join us TONIGHT at 5 p.m. for a time of food, fellowship, and growing deeper in our relationships with our spouses and with Christ. You can contact Shane at [shanecox198324@gmail.com](mailto:shanecox198324@gmail.com).

We hope you'll come back Wednesday evening where we have programs for all ages! The doors are open at 4 p.m. for Drive-by-Prayer in the Auditorium, followed by our kids Awana program, GU Students and men's and women's Bible studies at 6:30. Please pick up a brochure in the lobby so you can get connected with a group.

### GU STUDENTS - UPCOMING EVENTS

*10/6-7 - Youth Lock-in at Epic 6 (sign up in the Lobby)*

*11/17-18 - SMYM Youth Convention at James River*

We also have t-shirts available for \$15! Contact Pastor Patrick with any questions at [patrickdaniels1137@gmail.com](mailto:patrickdaniels1137@gmail.com), and check out the GUSStudents Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/GUSStudentsStl](http://www.facebook.com/GUSStudentsStl) for other details!

**TRUNK**  
OR  
**TREAT**

A graphic of a candy corn, which is a triangular treat with three distinct colors: yellow at the top, orange in the middle, and white at the bottom. It is positioned between the words 'OR' and 'TREAT' in the 'TRUNK OR TREAT' logo.

**SIGN UP  
TODAY!  
OCT 28 4-6PM**

It's that time again! We're getting ready for our biggest, most fun community event of the year, Trunk or Treat! This is a free event that offers a family-friendly environment for kids to play games, get candy, win prizes and have fun. We'll have inflatables, a photo booth, and a special raffle for guests who return on Sunday. **We're so excited to feature Juggling Jeff again this year, AND he'll be back in Kids Church on Sunday!** Whether you'll be hosting a trunk or can help in other areas, please sign up in the lobby today!!

# OUR MISSION

We are helping people to live in union with Christ by grace.

- Union with God through a relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Union with Others through investing in people through Biblical community.
- Union with Ourselves with a wholeness found in a new identity in Christ.
- Union with our Broken World by being an agent of change in our society by caring for and serving those who are poor, oppressed or marginalized.

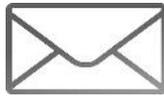
We value sharing the love, life and power of God to our communities and world, joining Christ in his mission to rescue fallen humanity.

## WAYS TO CONNECT



For any special needs, please email our Prayer Team at [gucprayer@gmail.com](mailto:gucprayer@gmail.com).

## WAYS TO GIVE



### ENVELOPE

Offering or Giving Box



### TEXT TO GIVE

Text GIVE to 314.888.5188



### ONLINE

[graceunionstl.org](http://graceunionstl.org)

## MAILING ADDRESS

3900 Union Road, St. Louis, MO 63125

Visit us online to learn more about Grace Union at [graceunionstl.org](http://graceunionstl.org).

*All of our message recordings can also be found on our website.*



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# THE SEVEN (PART 3): *Pergamum*

## Story of Balaam: Numbers 22–24

- Even though Balaam could not curse the Israelites, he advised the king on how to defeat them, in a more subtle way.

## I. The letter to the church at Pergamum.

### *Revelation 2:12–17*

- 12 To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword.
- 13 I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.
- 14 Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality.
- 15 Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.
- 16 Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.
- 17 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.

## II. The City of Pergamum

- Pergamum actually means Fortress, because that's what the city was.
- Built on a mountain standing above a valley, with tall and thick walls:: Impenetrable.
- Pergamum was the capital of the Roman Proconsul for all of Asia.
  - Everyone who lived here was either Powerful or Dangerous.

A. The church at Pergamum had experienced the full Brunt of Evil through violent persecution; BUT THEY WERE NOT BROKEN.

- Tertullian, "The blood of the Martyrs is the seed of the church."
- The more Rome tried to crush the church through force or coercion, the more it spread.

B. The Devil came up with a new strategy to destroy the church: Compromise.

- 1) God commends them for retaining their faith, but then he says nevertheless there are those among you who hold to the ways of Balaam.
- 2) So Balaam instructed that King to have his women ENTICE the Israelite men to either commit sexual immorality with them, or intermarry with them.
  - **He knew that eventually so much of Israel would gradually stray from their covenant with God, that God would judge them.**
  - They would lose God's favor and people would be able to defeat them easily.
- 3) There was a portion of the church in Pergamum that was compromising in some areas, in an attempt to blend in to the culture around them.
  - For economic and social reasons
- 4) The ways of Balaam in this circumstance was: *If you can't defeat the people of God through your own strength, then turn God against the people through compromise and a slow descent into disobedience, and then God's strength will be dispensed against his own people in judgment.*

C. Compromise is the Most Sinister approach our enemy employs.

- 1) We can often become convinced that the compromise accomplishes good.
- 2) On the pathway of Balaam no individual choice looks that bad in comparison to the ones before it.
- 3) **Question: Can you have any impact by introducing someone to a Jesus who cowers and adapts to meet their sensibilities?**
  - Compromising standards of faith and obedience never moves us or those we are concerned for any closer to God.

4) Compromise is a trap.

- **Our Job is neither to blend into culture nor to impose ourselves upon it. Jesus calls us to Love and Obey him, and to Love and Serve our fellow man.**
- We simply lift Jesus up by unapologetically living for him ourselves.
- Our job is to live in such a way that we dispense the UNDESERVED generosity, interest, and care for people around us that God dispenses for us.

5) Sometimes we deceive ourselves about our true motives.

- Our desire to be liked and our desire to have stuff and for life to be easier are very good at creating a smoke screen.
- As long as we remain unclear about what our motive for compromise really is, the case for Compromise will remain strong in our heart.

### **III. Promise: God rewards Faithfulness much better than this world rewards Compromise.**

*Revelation 2:17*

To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.

A. Hidden Manna:

- What he can give you FAR OUTWEIGHS what compromise can get you

B. White Stone with a New Name:

- Through Jesus THEY HAVE BEEN INVITED TO THE ONLY PARTY THAT MATTERS!

# THIS WEEK

Visit us online for information about these events and more.  
[graceunionsil.org](http://graceunionsil.org) or [facebook.com/graceunionsil](https://facebook.com/graceunionsil)

## MONDAY (10/2)

Alcoholics Anonymous (GU Family Room) - 7 pm  
(Led by Jeff Hall - 314.620.6635)

## TUESDAY (10/3)

## WEDNESDAY (10/4)

**Drive-by-Prayer** (Main Aud.) - 4-6:30 pm  
**Wednesday Night Ministries - 6:30 pm**  
Ladies Bible Study (Conf. Room A)  
Adult Bible Study (Conf. Room B)  
Men's Group Study (Conf. Room C)  
**GU Kids Awana** (Nursery-5th grade)  
**GU Students** (Youth Auditorium) - 6:30 pm

## THURSDAY (10/5)

## FRIDAY (10/6)

**GU Students Lock-in/Epic 6**

## SATURDAY (10/7)

## SUNDAY (10/8)

**GU Small Groups - 9 am**  
Women's Group (Conf. Room B)  
Men's Group (Conf. Room C)  
**Adults/Students Service (Main Aud.) - 10 am**  
**GU Kids (Early Childhood-Elementary) - 10 am**  
**Elementary Christmas Rehearsals**

## SAVE THE DATES

10/15,22,29 - Kids Play Practice  
10/28 - Trunk or Treat  
10/29 - Newcomers' Meeting  
11/17-18 - Youth Conference

12/1 - Volunteer/Leadership Party  
12/3 - Ladies Christmas Party  
12/9 - Kids Christmas Production  
12/24 - Christmas Eve Services

## OUR STAFF IS HERE TO SERVE YOU

OFFICE: 314.892.2757

PRAYER: GUCPRAYER@GMAIL.COM

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- **Rev. Jason Myers, Associate Pastor**  
*jscott5157@gmail.com*
- **Patrick Daniels, Student Ministry Pastor**  
*patrickdaniels1137@gmail.com*
- **Carrie Indelicato, Worship Leader**  
*cindelicato@live.com*
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