

Mirrors from Christ

Revelation 2–3 · Pastor Raul Granillo · May 24, 2026

TODAY'S TEXT

*“Let anyone who has an ear **listen** to what the Spirit is saying **to the churches.**”*

— Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22 (repeated seven times)

BIG IDEA

The seven letters are not ancient church-improvement memos — they are a **diagnostic mirror** the risen Christ holds up to every congregation in every era. Each church is being pressed by a **specific spirit of the beast**, disguising itself as the Spirit of God and trying to lock the doors so Jesus can't get in.

KEY TRUTH

Every local congregation lands **somewhere on this map** — and usually faces **more than one** of these dangerous spirits at the same time.

THE SEVEN MIRRORS — WHICH SPIRIT IS PULLING AT YOU?

CHURCH	SPIRIT AT WORK	WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE	ME?
Ephesus <i>Rev 2:1–7</i>	Boundary-Keeping	Doctrine policed so tightly that love is locked out. “Keep them over there.”	<input type="checkbox"/>
Smyrna <i>Rev 2:8–11</i>	Self-Serving Consumerism	Trading the gospel to keep the customer, the paycheck, the platform.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pergamum <i>Rev 2:12–17</i>	Accommodation	Sacrificing the Word to keep the body comfortable. Sin enabled as hospitality.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thyatira <i>Rev 2:18–29</i>	Privatized Faith	One ethic at church, another at work. “My faith is between me and God.”	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sardis <i>Rev 3:1–6</i>	Apathetic Faith	Famous for being alive — but dead. Status quo. “Don't fix what ain't broken.”	<input type="checkbox"/>
Philadelphia <i>Rev 3:7–13</i>	Fear	Playing it safe. Hiding the lampstand to avoid the cost of witness.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Laodicea <i>Rev 3:14–22</i>	Self-Sufficiency	“I am rich, I need nothing.” Disconnected from Christ — useless to him.	<input type="checkbox"/>

DEFINE THIS

Religio licita (Latin, “permitted religion”) — Rome's legal designation for an ancient, ancestral religion the empire officially tolerated. Judaism had it; the early Church did not. That's why faithfulness in Smyrna cost believers their livelihoods — and sometimes their lives.

QUOTE TO REMEMBER

“These spirits try to convince us that they are, in fact, the Spirits of God — but they trick us into locking the doors of the church so that Jesus can't get in.”

TAKE IT HOME — REFLECTION

- Which of the seven mirrors most accurately reflects our congregation right now? Which letter would we most need to hear?
- Which spirit is pulling at me personally — boundary-keeping, consumerism, accommodation, privatized faith, apathy, fear, or self-sufficiency?
- Where am I, even unintentionally, helping to lock a door Christ wants to walk through?

