

Conquering Accommodation

Revelation 2:12–29 · Pastor Raul Granillo · May 31, 2026

TODAY'S TEXT

*“You have some there who hold to the teaching of Balaam... So you also have some who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. **Repent, then.**” · “I have this against you: **you tolerate that woman Jezebel...**”*

— Revelation 2:14–16, 20

BIG IDEA

Pergamum and Thyatira share the **same disease with different symptoms**: both opened the door to teachers who said accommodation to the culture’s economic and religious demands was *harmless* — and both are told the door leads straight to the dragon.

KEY TRUTH

Demonic spirits don’t just invade — they grow where they are **nurtured**. The church is a garden: what we water is what grows. The spirits that have the most influence over us are the ones **we ourselves feed**.

SERMON OUTLINE — FOLLOW ALONG

- 1. Spirits — holy and evil — are very real, and we are responsible for which ones we nurture.
- 2. The church is a garden. Water holiness, justice, mercy, humility, obedience — and they grow. Water greed, apathy, idolatry, isolation, immorality — and they grow too.
- 3. If we just water everything, the thorns and weeds win. That is the nature of a fallen world.
- 4. Pergamum — “the teaching of Balaam.” No one can convince God to turn from his people. But Balaam learned that God’s people can be convinced to turn from God.
- 5. The spirit of accommodation is confirmation bias baptized. When we WANT something to be true, we will believe anything that affirms it.
- 6. Today we see this in churches that decry abortion or same-sex marriage but ignore racism, nationalism, or sexism — and vice versa. All must be addressed.
- 7. Thyatira — “the teaching of Jezebel.” A commercial city ruled by trade guilds whose meetings began with idol-wine, idol-food, and ended in immorality.
- 8. Their solution: build a sanitizing wall between business life and church life. Privatized faith — what we now call “secular vs. holy.”
- 9. Daniels: “Is life spiritual, or is it business? Can the sacred and secular be separated so faith is private and business public?”
- 10. We are NOT called to leave the world — we are called to live in it without engaging in what is sinful. The dividing wall is not from God.

DEFINE THIS

Confirmation Bias — the modern name for the spirit of Balaam: when we *want* something to be true, we default toward believing anything that affirms that desire — and we will accommodate sin to keep it.

SAME DISEASE — TWO DOORS

PERGAMUM · ACCOMMODATION

“Accept it — it isn’t sin.” Calls sin not-sin. Sacrifices the Word for the comfort of the body. Enables sin as hospitality.

THYATIRA · PRIVATIZED FAITH

“Justify it — it’s just business.” Builds a wall between Sunday and Monday. Calls part of life “secular” so sin can live there unquestioned.

QUOTE TO REMEMBER

“The difficult decision for Christians in a city like Thyatira was how much of pagan society to accept and how much to condemn.”

— T. Scott Daniels, *Seven Deadly Spirits*

TAKE IT HOME — REFLECTION

- Where are we accommodating sin in the church — accepting as harmless what God names harmful?
- Where am I privatizing my faith so I can justify sin as a “necessary evil” for life or business?
- How can we, at Mercy Springs Church, nurture holy spirits rather than demonic ones — what do we need to start watering, and what do we need to stop?

MY NOTES