



January 25, 2026
Joshua Parrish
Revelation 2:18-29

Introduction

This week's message explores Jesus' letter to the church in Thyatira, challenging us to examine how cultural pressures invite us to compromise our devotion to Christ in the pursuit of "more." Joshua Parrish reveals how the industrial city of Thyatira faced intense economic pressure to join trade guilds that required participation in idol worship and immoral practices. The message confronts our modern tendency toward syncretism—the "God AND" approach rather than "God OR"—showing how small compromises snowball into spiritual adultery. Jesus' call to "hold fast" reminds us that we already have everything in Him, challenging the lie that we need something more.

Key Texts:

Revelation 2:18-29; 1 Kings 21:25-26; Matthew 13:44-46; 1 Timothy 6:6-12

Icebreaker

What's something you once thought would make you happy or satisfied, but when you got it, you found yourself wanting more shortly after?

Discussion Questions

1. **Read Revelation 2:18-20 together.** Jesus commends Thyatira's growth before addressing their tolerance of "Jezebel's" teaching. The Thyatiran Christians faced economic pressure to join trade guilds that required idol worship—compromise or face financial consequences. What are modern equivalents where following Jesus fully might cost us economically or socially?

2. Jesus uses the adultery metaphor to describe spiritual compromise rather than just calling it "sin." Why is this metaphor so powerful? What does it reveal about how God views our divided loyalty between Him and other pursuits?
3. Joshua said, "Sin has a bit of a snowball effect... It always starts small." How have you seen small compromises grow into bigger spiritual problems? What makes it so difficult to recognize the pattern early on?
4. **Read Matthew 13:44-46 and 1 Timothy 6:6-10 together.** The core question of the message was: "How can I work for more if I already have it all?" How does truly believing you already have everything in Christ change your approach to career ambitions, financial decisions, or daily anxieties?
5. Joshua mentioned hedonic adaptation—how even major wins only temporarily affect our happiness before we return to baseline wanting more. How does this psychological reality expose the lie that "just a little more" will finally satisfy us? Where do you see this pattern most clearly in your own life?
6. Jesus tells the faithful: "Hold fast to what you have until I come." What specific practices help you resist cultural pressure to compromise and hold tightly to Jesus? How can this group support you in that fight?

Key Takeaways

- Cultural pressure to compromise often comes through economic or social incentives
- Small compromises snowball into larger spiritual problems over time
- Jesus uses adultery imagery because divided loyalty grieves Him deeply
- We already have everything in Christ—the pursuit of "more" is a trap
- Godliness with contentment is great gain
- Holding fast to Jesus requires intentional resistance to syncretism

Notes