

Revelation 2:8-11

*"To the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of Him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. <sup>9</sup>I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. <sup>10</sup>Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life. <sup>11</sup>He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death."*

## I. Introduction

1. Smyrna is the only church in Revelation without a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Smyrna is the \_\_\_\_\_ church.

### Truths about persecution and suffering:

- Persecution has always \_\_\_\_\_ the church.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is not something you seek; it seeks you.
- Satan has found \_\_\_\_\_ to be a far more powerful tool than persecution.

### Misconceptions:

- \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are marks of spiritual blessing.
- It is a \_\_\_\_\_ to be poor in a prosperous nation.

## II. A Closer Look

1. True faith is never a \_\_\_\_\_ thing.

1 Peter 3:15

*But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.*

- The church at Smyrna was suffering \_\_\_\_\_ their faith and not \_\_\_\_\_ a lack of faith.

Vs. 8 - *"To the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of Him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again..."*

- Christ reminds us that He was \_\_\_\_\_ the storm, He is \_\_\_\_\_ the storm, and He will be \_\_\_\_\_ the storm.

Vs. 9 - *I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.*

- Christ understands our difficulties not by \_\_\_\_\_ but by experience.

Hebrews 4:14-16

*Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. <sup>15</sup>For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. <sup>16</sup>Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*

2. The church has a real \_\_\_\_\_.

*Vs. 10 - Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life...*

- Satan \_\_\_\_\_ the Father through His children.
- Tests are \_\_\_\_\_ to reveal our integrity.
- Being convinced of God's faithfulness is the \_\_\_\_\_ to victory through trials.
- Tests are \_\_\_\_\_, but rewards are eternal.
- The man born once dies \_\_\_\_\_, but the man born twice dies \_\_\_\_\_.

*Vs. 11 - He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death.*

Week 4: The End Unveiled