

Reflection Questions: Have I ever suffered for the cause of Christ? Why or why not? Am I taking advantage of my spiritual riches daily? How faithful am I to God in the little things? Do my past actions point to being *faithful unto death*?

How can we pray for one another and our church this week?

Quotes to Ponder

Suffering...is the badge of true discipleship.

The disciple is not above his Master.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

We who are Christians in the west do not suffer much. The ugly truth is that we tend to avoid suffering by compromise... The world sees in us nothing to hate.

John Stott

This 'tribulation' does not mean the common trials to which all flesh is heir. Some dear souls think they are bearing their cross every time they have a headache. The tribulation mentioned here is trouble they would not have had if they had not been Christians.

Vance Havner

Trials and persecution strengthen and refine genuine saving faith but uncover and destroy false faith.

John MacArthur

Princes, kings, and other rulers of the world have used all their strength and cunning against the Church, yet it continues to endure and hold its own.

John Foxe

The apostles went away rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for the name of Christ, that they were graced so far as to be disgraced for the name of Christ!

Thomas Watson

Never did the church so much prosper and so truly thrive as when she was baptized in the blood. The ship of the church never sails so gloriously along as when the bloody spray of her martyrs falls on her deck. We must suffer and we must die, if we are ever to conquer this world for Christ.

Charles Spurgeon



Revelation 2:8-11

Sermon
Notes

October 3, 2021

1. The Charge (8)
2. The City (8)
3. The Church (8)
4. The Correspondent (8)
5. The Commendation (9)
 - A. Their Tribulation
 - B. Their Poverty
 - C. Their Slander
6. The Counsel (10)
 - A. Fear Not
 - B. Be Faithful
7. The Challenge (11)

1. What in the text/sermon impacted you? Encouraged you? Convicted you? Challenged you? Confused you? Comforted you?

2. What kind of church was the church at Smyrna (*Revelation 2:8-11*)?

3. How does Jesus describe Himself in *Revelation 2:8* (cf. *Revelation 1:17-18*)?

How might this be encouraging to the Christians in Smyrna?

4. What does Jesus *know* about the church in Smyrna (*Revelation 2:9*)?

What does *tribulation* mean and how might these Christians have been experiencing it?

What does *poverty* mean? Why would Jesus say they *are rich* (cf. *James 2:5*)?

What *blasphemy* was being spread about these Christians? Who were the ones *slandering* them?

5. What did Jesus warn the church at Smyrna was about to happen and for what purpose (*Revelation 2:10*)?

What were they not to *fear*?

What is the reward to those who are *faithful* (cf. *James 1:12*)?

6. What is meant when Jesus says, *you will have tribulation for ten days* (*Revelation 2:10*)?

7. How might the message to *be faithful until death* (*Revelation 2:10*) have been received by the church in Smyrna?

8. How would the promise of the *crown of life* (*Revelation 2:10*) have encouraged those who were suffering?

9. What is promised to the one *who overcomes* (*Revelation 2:11*)?

What is *the second death* (*Revelation 20:14-15*)? Who will experience it?

10. What do the following verses say about persecution?

John 15:19-10 —

James 1:2-4 —

Acts 14:22 —

1 Peter 1:6-7 —

Romans 8:35-39 —

1 Peter 3:14-17 —

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 —

1 Peter 4:12-14 —

2 Timothy 3:11-12 —

1 Peter 5:10 —

11. Most Christians in America do not compromise because we are afraid of being killed. We compromise for far less than that. In which areas of life do you think Christians feel most pressured to compromise? Where does that pressure come from?