

Series: "GROWING PAINS"
Part 1: "PERSEVERING THROUGH PERSECUTION"
Crossroads Community Church
January 14, 2024

²⁰ Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.

John 15:20a (NIV)

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. ⁹ I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. 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 life as your victor's crown.

¹¹ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death.

Revelation 2:8-11 (NIV)

We are empowered to persevere through persecution because we have...

1. The _____ of God

⁹ I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich!

Revelation 2:9a (NIV)

2. The _____ of God

⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ

Philippians 3:8 (NIV)

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 life as your victor's crown.

Revelation 2:10b (NIV)

3. The _____ of _____ Life

¹² Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

James 1:12 (NIV)

Two Actions in the Face of Persecution

¹⁰ Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer.

Revelation 2:10a

1. Be _____

Be faithful, even to the point of death

Revelation 2:10b

2. Be _____

➤ _____

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➤ _____

²⁴ However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.

Acts 20:24 (NIV)

Sermon Notes
