

HANG IN THERE

(The Church of Smyrna)

Revelation 2:8-11

Smyrna (Background)

The COMMENDATION

1. Enduring being **ROBBED** and **CHEATED** in order to take a strong stand for Jesus is commendable. (*Hebrews 12:3; Romans 8:31-37; 1 Peter 2:19-20, 4:12-19; James 1:12; Colossians 3:25*)
2. Setting our minds and desires on Kingdom values and not on **EARTHLY** possessions is commendable. (*Hebrews 10:34, 13:5; Matthew 6:19-21, 24, 16:26; Colossians 3:2; 1 Timothy 6:9-10; Matthew 6:33; Proverbs 11:28; 1 John 2:15-17; 1 Timothy 6:17-19*)
3. Enduring hostility and **SLANDER** (even by 'religious' people) for the sake of Christ is commendable. (*Matthew 5:10-12; 1 Peter 3:16; Isaiah 41:11-13; Luke 23:34; Exodus 14:14*)

The CENSURE
(none)

The CHALLENGE

4. Be ready to stand in the face of **ADVERSITY**, knowing that God allows it to **REFINE** us. (*1 Peter 1:7; Matthew 10:28; Job 23:10; 2 Corinthians 4:8-9; 1 Peter 5:10; James 1:2-4; Genesis 50:20; Romans 5:3-5; 8:18, 28; Isaiah 26:3; Philippians 4:6-7; 2 Timothy 3:12*)
5. Be faithful for the **MARATHON** - not just for a **SPRINT**. (*Colossians 1:10-12; Hebrews 3:6, 10:23, 12:1-4; Matthew 10:22; 1 Corinthians 1:8; Luke 21:19*)

The CONSEQUENCE

6. The **SECOND DEATH** will never touch the overcomer!



Sunday, January 21, 2023

Taking it further to help you THRIVE...

THRIVE Groups are where life and growth take place. We don't want to just say "See you next week" as we leave each Sunday - we want to connect!
For more info on joining a THRIVE Group, visit thrivekg.org/thrive-groups.

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Given what is happening / about to happen to the church of Smyrna, what is the significance of Jesus' description of Himself in verse 1? What is the comfort for us today in this description?
3. Why did Jesus have no words of censure for the church of Smyrna?
4. In what ways is a poor believer rich? In what ways do material possessions not matter? When / how do they matter? Does having them / not having them affect how God sees us? Why? Why not?
5. What is the devil's goal in persecuting believers? What is God's purpose in allowing it? Do we see persecution of believers in our country? If so, how? How does it compare to believers in other countries? Why might it be different?
6. In what ways have you 'suffered' for your faith? Avoided 'suffering' for your faith? Where do you find it hard to live out your faith? How are you experiencing "persecution" for speaking and living for Christ?