



Digging Deeper

Putting your faith in ACTION!

This morning let's not be just 'hearers' of the Word, but 'doers of the word. Take some time at lunch, dinner, or bedtime to DIG DEEPER into the today's lesson and story. Take a few moments to apply today's lesson to our lives.

ASK MYSELF...challenging questions for the heart:

1. Jesus saw and knew the trials and suffering the church at Smyrna experienced. How does knowing that Jesus also sees your suffering and trials help you?
2. How have you experienced being 'rich' in Christ in your life?
3. Have you persecution proofed your life? In other words, is your commitment and faithfulness to Christ such that it can withstand and overcome the worst the enemy might throw at you?
4. Take some time to pray over today's message.

FOR THE FAMILY...challenging questions for family life:

1. The message to Smyrna is a difficult one. Suffering is a tough topic, but it's also a real topic – even for children. Take some time to convey to your kids the heart of today's message: Christ sees and understands the suffering we go through because he *experienced the worst* that life could do to him, but he also *conquered the worst that life could do to him*. We have nothing to fear!
2. Discuss the eternal value of being FAITHFUL.
3. Take some time pray together.



Today's Service

September 10th, 2017

Series: Seven

Part 2: Smyrna

Pastor Brian Stanley



Revelation 2:8-11 (NLT) ⁸“Write this letter to the angel of the church in Smyrna. This is the message from the one who is the First and the Last, who was dead but is now alive:⁹“I know about your suffering and your poverty—but you are rich! I know the blasphemy of those opposing you. They say they are Jews, but they are not, because their synagogue belongs to Satan. ¹⁰Don’t be afraid of what you are about to suffer. The devil will throw some of you into prison to test you. You will suffer for ten days. But if you remain faithful even when facing death, I will give you the crown of life. ¹¹“Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches. Whoever is victorious will not be harmed by the second death.

Jesus _____ and _____ about our suffering.

Matthew 11:28-29 (NLT) ²⁸Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

You can be _____, yet be _____ in Christ.

John 8:37-45 (NLT) ³⁷Yes, I realize that you are descendants of Abraham. And yet some of you are trying to kill me because there’s no room in your hearts for my message. ³⁸I am telling you what I saw when I was with my Father. But you are following the advice of your father.” ³⁹“Our father is Abraham!” they declared. “No,” Jesus replied, “for if you were really the children of Abraham, you would follow his example. ⁴⁰Instead, you are trying to kill me because I told you the truth, which I heard from God. Abraham never did such a thing. ⁴¹No, you are imitating your real father.” They replied, “We aren’t illegitimate children! God himself is our true Father.” ⁴²Jesus told them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, because I have come to you from God. I am not here on my own, but he sent me. ⁴³Why can’t you understand what I am saying? It’s because you can’t even hear me! ⁴⁴For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.

God has _____ our _____ and he will receive his due.

Isaiah 41:10 (NLT) ¹⁰Don’t be afraid, for I am with you. Don’t be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.

Those in _____ never have anything to _____.

Ephesians 6:12 (NLT) ¹²For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

Hebrews 2:18 (NLT) ¹⁸Since he himself has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us when we are being tested.

Hebrews 4:15 (NLT) ¹⁵This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.

Christ _____ the worst that life could do to Him;
He also _____ the worst that life could do to him.

SO CAN WE!

So, BE _____!

NOTES:

