

An open wooden door stands in a dark, rocky landscape. Through the doorway, a bright sunset is visible over the ocean, with the sun low on the horizon and its light reflecting on the water. The sky is filled with soft, colorful clouds.

R E V E L A T I O N
Jesus Wins

The Church in Smyrna

Revelation 2:8-10

July 14, 2024

What would you expect Jesus to say to a faithful church? The church in Smyrna is lauded for their faith and receives a surprising letter. The letter tells them they will be persecuted and how they should respond to trials and persecution. This passage is a reminder that trials and persecution are part of the Christian life, regardless of the faithfulness of the church or believer.

Order Of Worship

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

From Psalm 145

Leader: *Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations.*

All: *The LORD is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works.*

Leader: *The LORD upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.*

All: *The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season.*

Leader: *You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing.*

All: *The LORD is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works.*

Leader: *The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.*

All: *He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them.*

Songs of Praise

***All Creatures of Our God and King
Come People of the Risen King***

Offering

Confession of Sin

*Almighty God, your mercy is
higher than the heavens,
wider than our wanderings,
deeper than our sin.*

*Forgive our shallow attitude toward life,
our callousness toward suffering,
our envy of others,
our neglect of your wise law.*

*Help us to change the way we live
so that we may desire what is good,
love what you love,
and do what you command,*

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Song of Declaration

Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me

Confession of Faith

Heidelberg Catechism #110-111

Q. What does God forbid in the eighth commandment?

A. God forbids not only outright theft and robbery, punishable by law. But in God's sight theft also includes all scheming and swindling in order to get our neighbor's goods for ourselves, whether by force or means that appear legitimate, such as inaccurate measurements of weight, size, or volume; fraudulent merchandising; counterfeit money; excessive interest; or any other means forbidden by God.

In addition God forbids all greed and pointless squandering of his gifts.

Q. What does God require of you in this commandment?

A. That I do whatever I can for my neighbor's good, that I treat others as I would like them to treat me, and that I work faithfully so that I may share with those in need.

Pastoral Prayer

Children's Message

Sermon

The Church in Smyrna

Revelation 2:8-10

Pastor James Brignac

Song of Response

Jesus I My Cross Have Taken

Benediction

Sermon Notes

The Persecuted Church

What is unique about the letter to Smyrna?

Who is opposed to this church?

What is the potential cost of following Jesus?

The Lord's Church

What assumptions do many people have regarding trials in this life?

What hope is there for believers in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus?

What is the significance of the 10 days?

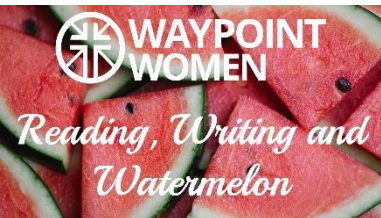
The Faithful Church

What is the call for all believers?

What hope is found in Hebrews 4:15?

What is the difficult truth found in this passage?

Announcements



July 23 at 6:30 PM
Details coming soon!



August 16-18
Ponte Vedra Presbyterian Church



M.E.A.T
July 15 at 7:00 PM

Learn *God's ways*
of handling money.



Ramsey Financial Peace University
Detail on our web site



Multiple small groups formed
Contact Pastor James for info



Every Friday at 8:00 AM
Contact Carl Hill for details

Discussion Questions

1. What trials have you experienced recently?
2. What do we often assume about people who are experiencing trials or persecution?
3. Is it difficult to believe God is sovereign even over the difficult aspects of life?
4. Read Romans 5:3-4. How do we view trials?
5. What does it mean to simply "be faithful" today?
6. How should we view persecution as Christians?