

Seven Letters  
Smyrna – Suffering Church  
May 16, 2021

**Revelation 2:8** “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.**”

**Revelation 2:9** “**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.”

**How did the Christians suffer?**

✓ \_\_\_\_\_.

**Key Thought:** The enemy uses pain to \_\_\_\_\_ our faith, but God uses pain to \_\_\_\_\_ our faith.

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**Revelation 2:10** “**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...”

**Two Instructions to the Suffering Church:**

1. Drown out your fear with \_\_\_\_\_.

**Joshua 1:9** “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

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2. Put your \_\_\_\_\_ on the line.

**Revelation 2:10-11** "...I will give you life as your **victor's crown**. 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**."

**Two Promises to the Suffering Church:**

- ✓ The \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ are better than the rewards of the world.
- ✓ The reckoning of \_\_\_\_\_ by Christ is better than the reckoning of time by the world.

**Luke 12:4-5** "I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after your body has been killed, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him."

**Key Thought:** Death is an \_\_\_\_\_.

**Walk Away:** Today I declare I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus; therefore, I will lay my life on the \_\_\_\_\_ for Christ, no matter the \_\_\_\_\_.

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