

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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