

Church at Smyrna: Be Faithful (Revelation 2:8-11)

January 27, 2019 | Don Logan

Revelation 2:8-11 (ESV)

“And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: ‘The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life.

“ ‘I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.’

Group Discussion

1. Read Revelation 2:8-11. What are some of your thoughts about this short text?
2. Don mentioned three purposes or promises of suffering in the text. Talk about each one and if it has been true in your own life.
 - a) God wants to test to reveal our relationship (Satan wants to tempt us away from relationship)
 - b) God wants us to have eternal perspective (You are poor, yet I say you are rich)
 - c) God wants us to love Him more (His Son)
3. Don also talked about strategies for being courageous. Where do you usually "live?"
 - a) Be dumb. (Just live as if nothing bad can or will happen)
 - b) Be positive. (Visualize success. Think and act positively. Believe in the best outcome, etc.)
 - c) Be transactional. (God if you do, I will do. I promise I will if You will, etc.)
 - d) Look to Jesus. (Hebrews 12:2. If He did, and won THAT victory.

Then I've already won!)

(When we encourage others, which methodology do we use?)

4. Consider suffering in the lives of others.

Consider these questions: If suffering brings so many riches then why do we act as if suffering is something we want to immediately alleviate in the lives of others?

What is the tension between faithfully caring for others, but not trying to rescue people from what God wants to accomplish for His glory and their relationship with Him?

5. Prayer and praise