

## THE BOOK OF REVELATION 18

### *The Persecuted Church 3*

#### **I. Review: The Church at Smyrna was a church undergoing great persecution.**

A. If we are going to live for Jesus and promote revival, then we will experience persecution to one degree or another.

B. (Rev. 2:8-11 NKJV) *8"And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, 'These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life: 9"I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. 10Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. 11"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death."*

#### **II. Review: Four things Jesus knew about this church and its condition.**

A. Jesus knew their works.

B. Jesus knew their tribulation and poverty.

C. Jesus knew the blasphemy of the Jews against the church.

D. Jesus knew that some of them would be put in prison (v.10.)

1. (v.10) *Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days.*

2. In this persecution, some of them were going to be tested by being put into prison...experiencing tribulation 10 days.

#### **III. Jesus gave no corrections to this suffering church, but He did give them two exhortations.**

A. He exhorted them not to fear any of the things that they would suffer.

B. He exhorted the church at Smyrna to be faithful until death.

#### **IV. Be faithful until death.**

A. (v.10.) *10Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be*

*tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.*

## **B. Four reasons why we must be faithful to Jesus until death.**

### **1. Only those who are faithful until death will receive the crown of life.**

a. *V.10... Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.*

b. Immortality is given to those who are faithful to the Lord until death.

### **2. Only those who overcome will not be hurt by the second death.**

a. *(v.11) 11"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death."*

b. The second death is the Lake of Fire.

c. *(Rev. 21:7, 8 NKJV) <sup>7</sup>He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. <sup>8</sup>But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."*

d. Those who overcome are those who are faithful to death.

e. *(Rev. 2:10, 11 NKJV) 10Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. 11"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death."*

f. Obviously, those who overcome are those who are faithful until death.

### **3. Only those who keep Jesus' works to the end will rule with Him over the nations.**

a. *(Rev. 2:26, 27 NKJV) <sup>26</sup>And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—<sup>27</sup>'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'—*

b. Obviously, overcomers are those who keep Jesus' works until the end.

c. The works of Jesus which we are to keep until the end are the corresponding actions that are produced by ongoing faith in Him and are evidences of ongoing faith in Him.

d. (James 2:18-20 NKJV) <sup>18</sup>*But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.* <sup>19</sup>*You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!* <sup>20</sup>*But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?*

e. (James 2:26 NKJV) <sup>26</sup>*For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.*

#### 4. Only those who endure until the end will be saved.

a. (Matt. 24:13 NKJV) <sup>13</sup>*But he who endures to the end shall be saved.*

b. Obviously, this verse is referring to enduring in faith in Jesus until the end of your life or until He comes to receive the church to Himself.

c. If it was not possible for a person to start out believing in Jesus, but at some point, along the way stop believing in Jesus, then these passages wouldn't mean anything.

#### V. The book of Revelation makes it clear that the Bible does not teach "once saved, always saved."

A. The Bible teaches overcoming by continuing in the faith and abiding in Christ.

B. Neither does the Bible teach that a person loses his salvation every time he sins or makes a mistake.

C. Neither does the Bible teach that a person flip flops back and forth between being saved and being lost.

D. Neither does the Bible teach that you have to live in fear of losing your salvation.

E. The Bible does teach that we should fear God. If you will fear God, you will not backslide.

F. During the next few lessons we will thoroughly develop this subject in detail order to give you the right understanding of this subject.

G. Let me conclude this lesson with the exhortation given in (Col. 1:21-23 NKJV) <sup>21</sup>*And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled* <sup>22</sup>*in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—* <sup>23</sup>*if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the*

*gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.*

H. The Bible teaches continuing in the faith, becoming grounded and steadfast in the faith, and not being moved away from the hope of the gospel.

I. Salvation is predicated by this condition: <sup>23</sup>*if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel.*

J. It should be noted here that persecution comes from the devil in order to move you away from continuing in the faith.

K. But if you will continue in the faith, then God will bring you through. (Jude 24, 25 NKJV) <sup>24</sup>*Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, <sup>25</sup>To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.*