

The Book of Revelation
State of the Church
Part 2
09.16.2020

SIX TRUTHS ABOUT JESUS AND THE CHURCH

1. Jesus **loves** the Church.
2. Jesus **died** for the Church.
3. Jesus is the **head** of the Church.
4. Jesus is the **bridegroom** of the Church.
5. Jesus deeply cares about the “**state of the Church,**” because it is **HIS** Church.
6. The Church is the **pillar of Truth** and the one who heralds the Gospel of Christ.

As born-again believers that belong to Christ’s Church, we should be in a continual process of **growing** in our faith.

*What is the state of **my faith**?*

- *What area(s) have **grown** and bear **fruit**?*
- *What area(s) are **weak** and need **improvement**?*

Note: Times of prayer and fasting helps us realize those things.

The Church in Smyrna

Scripture: Revelation 1:9-20; 2:8-11

Jesus Commends: Faithful endurance through suffering and poverty.

THREE TYPES OF SUFFERING

1. The result of living in a **fallen world**

2. The result of our own **foolishness**

The great theologian John Wayne said, "Life is tough. Life is tougher when you're stupid."

3. The result of our **faith in Christ**

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 1:3-11

FIVE THINGS WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND ABOUT SUFFERING

1. Suffering for Christ will come as a result of **living for Christ**.

Scripture: John 15:18-19

2. Many times God calls us to **endure** suffering, not **escape** it.

3. God won't allow us to go through suffering without providing us the **grace and comfort** we need to **endure it**.

Scripture: 2. Corinthians 11:16-27; 12:1-10

4. Suffering teaches us to stop relying **on self** and start relying **on God**.

5. Suffering is a **school** and **tool** which God uses to **sanctify** true believers.

Jesus Crown

- Crown of life
- Will not be harmed by the second death

Personal Closing Question:

"How am I doing and dealing with the trials and difficulties of life?"