

Sermon Discussion Questions

Revelation 2:8–11 | The Church in Smyrna

1. **Opening Question:** What's something difficult you've gone through that later changed how you saw God or yourself?
2. **Read** Revelation 2:8–11.
3. Jesus calls Himself “the First and the Last, who died and came to life.” Why do you think that specific description matters for a suffering church?
4. Smyrna was materially poor but spiritually rich. What does that reveal about how Jesus measures success compared to the world?
5. The sermon said, “*He alone defines reality.*” How does remembering that truth change how you handle hardship or rejection?
6. The Christians in Smyrna faced slander and exclusion for following Christ. What kinds of “soft persecution” or cultural pressure do believers face today?
7. Jesus tells them, “Do not fear.” What fears most often keep you from fully trusting or obeying Christ?
8. The sermon emphasized that “faithfulness > comfort.” How do you see that tension play out in your own life or in the Bay Area culture?
9. Jesus promises a “crown of life” and says the “second death” will not harm His people. How does resurrection hope fuel endurance when life feels hard or uncertain?
10. Close by reflecting: What does it look like to be a modern-day Smyrna — a believer who suffers faithfully and remains rich in Christ?