All In with Jordan Easley

Smyrna

Your Search For The Right Church | Week 2 | Revelation 2:8-11

INTRODUCTION	NOTES
These letters in Revelation were written by John, but they were articulated by Jesus, himself. This means that as we study the book of Revelation, we are reading the words of Jesus to the church. And what's also cool is that these messages not only apply to a church back then, but I believe they apply to the church today. The first church Jesus addressed was the Church at Ephesus (we talked about that last week). In today's message, we're going to see what Jesus has to say to another church in Revelation 2: The Church at Smyrna.	
KEY POINTS	
The main thing that Jesus communicated to the church at Smyrna was that He knew them. Specifically, He mentions five things He knows about this church:	
1. AFFLICTION —He knew affliction because He experienced it Himself. He knew how hard it was being a Christian in a non-Christian world.	
2. POVERTY —He knew being a Christian would come at a cost. Jesus made it clear that some of you will lose jobs and your inheritance and you won't be repaid until you get to Heaven.	
3. SLANDER —Jesus knew being a Christian meant that your reputation may be destroyed. He too experienced how people will say things about you and attempt to tear you down.	
4. SUFFERING —Jesus promises that Christ followers will suffer.	
5. DEATH —Jesus did not shy away from the truth that many believers will die for their faith in Christ. But He died for us, so He can empathize with the pain of this reality. Now this doesn't mean we aspire to die, but we are to live our life in such a way where we believe, "to live is Christ and to die is gain."	

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1.	What do you learn about Jesus' character by how He empathizes with the church at Smyrna?
2.	Which of the five points above have you experienced personally?
3.	How does it feel to know that Jesus understands how you feel no matter what hardship or struggle you face?

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