

THE SECOND LETTER: ONLY AFTER

April 5, 2020

I. INTRODUCTION TO THE SECOND LETTER

Revelation 2:8-9 “To the angel of the church in Smyrna write:

Revelation 2:8-9 “To the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. 9 I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

A. Jesus knows what you are going through.

B. Jesus sees from the beginning to the end.

C. Jesus is victorious over the great enemy of death.

1) EASTER IS NOT CANCELLED!

John 12:12-15 The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the king of Israel!” Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written: “Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt.”

John 12:16 At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.

2) Some things will not make sense until Only After.

Revelation 2:10-11 Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death.

II. HOW TO WAIT FOR ONLY AFTER

1. Quarantine Fear

Philippians 4:6-7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- **Do not let today's fear rob you of tomorrow's promise.**

2. Reminder: You Are Going To Make It

- **Things may get worse before they get better.**

Revelation 2:11 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death.

- **You are going to make it!**

3. Stay Faithful

Psalms 31:23-24 Love the LORD, all his faithful people! The LORD preserves those who are true to him, but the proud he pays back in full. Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the LORD.

- **There is a direct connection between faithfulness to God and favor from God.**

4. Stay Focused

- **Not everything that is encouraging is easy.**

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

- **Focus on the eternal. It is what will last Only After.**