

CHRIST IN OUR MIDST
The Church of Smyrna: Be Faithful
Revelation 2:8-11
Week 3 August 17, 2025
Pastor Mike Popovich

Read Revelation 2:8-11

JESUS IS FIRST

These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. Revelation 2:8 NIV

Christians refused to worship Caesar in any way and saw Jesus as first in everything.

JESUS KNOWS YOUR SITUATION

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. Revelation 2:9 NIV

Their affliction is most likely coming from their refusal to worship any other god except Jesus.

The church represents the kingdom of God which makes them eternally rich.

DO NOT BE AFRAID

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. Revelation 2:10 NIV

As Christ's followers are faithful unto death they will be given the imperishable crown of life.

Truly, truly I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. 25 The one who loves his life loses it, and the one who hates his life in this world will keep it to eternal life. 26 If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him. John 12:24-26 NAS

We are called to serve Jesus who is the Christ.

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. 26 What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? 27 For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done. Matthew 16:24-27 NIV

CHOOSE YOUR PATH

Is Jesus enough? Do you trust Him? Will you place your faith in Him or will you choose another path?

Polycarp said, "For 86 years I have served Christ and never once did He wrong me, How then can I blaspheme my king who saved me?"

DO NOT COMPROMISE

Hold on to Jesus when tested.

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. Revelation 2:11 NIV

Do not let the culture turn you away from walking with Jesus.