

A Letter to the Church in Smyrna

Revelation 2:8-11 | Pastor Paul Bauman

Two Characteristics

1. Smyrna was fiercely loyal to the Roman Empire.
2. Christianity was viewed as a religious threat by the Jews and as a political threat by the Roman Empire.

The Means of Persecution

1. Extreme Poverty.
2. Vicious slander.
3. Intense pressure to deny Christ.
 - It was used for coercion or persuading people that they were wrong in order that they would recant or reject their previous view.
 - If coercion was unsuccessful, then prison was used to detain someone before their eventual execution.
4. Execution.

Two Perspectives

- ❖ Our natural default is to avoid suffering.
- ❖ The courage needed to face suffering and persecution for the sake of Christ is found only in Christ.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, JULY 21, 2024



New Podcast: Caden Stara and Madison Sides are sharing their experience on the Louisville, KY mission trip and how God was working in and through them.

Praise God! VBS was a success! We had an awesome week with our Hillcrest Kids and Community learning about God's Truth, God's Plan is Best, Everyone Needs Jesus, and Jesus is the Only Way. Huge Thank You to all our volunteers and all who donated to making this a great week!

Adult Mission Trip: We have an opportunity through Reach Global Crisis Response to help in the tornado cleanup in Greenfield, IA. If we can get a crew established, we would like to attempt this as our adult trip in late July or early August. The cost is \$200 or \$370 depending on the length of the trip. If interested, contact Blane Steckly ASAP. blane.steckly@gmail.com / (402) 641-3236.

Fall Kick-Off: Invite everyone – all is welcome! Mark your calendars for August. 25th, 5-8pm. Hillcrest Kids are kicking off the fall with a night of FUN for the whole family! Food trucks, bounce inflatables, and live music from Dorothy's Dishes.

RightNow Media: Is a free app that you can stream over 20,000 Christian videos of bible studies, family studies and 2,000 safe and entertaining videos just for kids! To check it out, visit hillcrestefc.org/rightnowmedia.

Hillcrest Highlights: Visit hillcrestefc.org/email and join our email list to stay up to date on Hillcrest announcements and activities!