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#### Our Purpose

why we exist

The purpose of the church is to bring glory to God.

#### Our Mission

what we do

Love God • Love People • Make Disciples

#### Our Core Values

how we do it

- Worship** - lifting up the name of the Lord Jesus Christ
- Connect** - living in community, loving and supporting one another
- Grow** - equipping believers to live in obedience to God's Word
- Serve** - helping people discover and use their God-given talents
- Reach** - transforming lives and communities with the good news of Jesus Christ

#### Contact Information

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July 27/28

# SEVEN LETTERS REVELATION 2-3

## The Letter to the Suffering Church (Part 2)

Revelation 2:8-11

Pastor Rick Countryman

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. I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. 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 the crown of life.*

*He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death.* Revelation 2:8-11 (NIV)

### 1. The first thing Jesus says to you when you're suffering is

\_\_\_\_\_.

*I know your afflictions and your poverty...* Verse 9

*Nothing in all creation is hidden from God.* Hebrews 4:13 (NLT)

*Our Lord is great and very powerful. There is no limit to what he knows.* Psalm 147:5 (NCV)

*The LORD sees everything you do, and he watches where you go.* Proverbs 5:21 (NCV)

### 2. The second thing Jesus says when you're suffering is

\_\_\_\_\_.

*Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer.* Verse 10

*God will strengthen you with his own great power so that you will not give up when troubles come, but you will be patient.* Colossians 1:11 (NCV)

### 3. The third thing Jesus says when you're suffering is

\_\_\_\_\_.

*I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days.* Verse 10

*Do you remember what I told you? "A slave is not greater than the master." Since they persecuted me, naturally they will persecute you.* John 15:20 (NLT)

### 4. The fourth thing Jesus says when you're suffering is

\_\_\_\_\_.

*Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.* Verse 10

*Great is His faithfulness; His mercies begin afresh each morning.* Lamentations 3:23 (NLT)

*Your unfailing love will last forever. Your faithfulness is as enduring as the heavens... All heaven will praise your great wonders, LORD; myriads of angels will praise you for your faithfulness.* Psalm 89:2 & 5 (NLT)

*For the word of the LORD is right and true; He is faithful in all he does.* Psalm 33:4 (NIV)

\_\_\_\_\_ years have I served the Lord Jesus Christ,  
and He has never once wronged me.  
How can I blaspheme my King who saved me?

*God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.* 1 Corinthians 1:9 (NCV)

*But the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one.* 2 Thessalonians 3:3 (NLT)

*Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your Christian brothers and sisters all over the world are going through the same kind of suffering you are.* 1 Peter 5:8-9 (NLT)

### 5. The fifth thing Jesus says when you're suffering is

\_\_\_\_\_.

*Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.* Verse 10



**Memory Verse**

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort. 2 Corinthians 1:3*

**Monday - Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.**

Review the sermon outline and read through all the verses. Through which verses did God speak to you? Spend time meditating on the verses. What do you sense God saying to you?

From the sermon, which of the 5 points about suffering is most comforting to you? Why?

**Tuesday - Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.**

Read Revelation 2:8-11. What words does Jesus use to describe Himself in verse 8?

What does Jesus mean when He tells the suffering church of Smyrna that they are rich? (See Matthew 5:10-12 and James 2:5.)

How is this different from the world's definition of rich?

What part did Satan have in the suffering of the church?

What is meant by the *crown of life*? (Do a word study on *crown of life/glor*.)

**Wednesday - Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.**

Read John 16:16-33. What will cause the disciples to mourn and the world to rejoice?

How will grief suddenly turn to joy?

What promises does Jesus make to his disciples?

Which is your favorite promise? Why?

Although Jesus says we may have trials and sorrows, what does He encourage us to do? Why?

**Thursday - Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.**

Read Philippians 1:12-26. Why was Paul imprisoned? What was the result?

For what was Paul rejoicing? How was he capable of rejoicing?

How important is it for believers to pray for each other?

For what did Paul eagerly expect and hope?

What was Paul's dilemma in verses 22-24? How did he resolve the dilemma in his mind?

How does Paul's attitude encourage you?

**Friday - Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.**

Read 2 Timothy 2:1-14. In what did Paul want Timothy to be strong?

What was Timothy asked to do with the truths he was taught?

What three illustrations does Paul use to encourage Timothy to stay strong?

Why was Paul willing to endure everything?

What encouragement and warning are given?

What have you personally endured to bring glory to Jesus?

**Personal Reflection & Application**

What does 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 say about suffering and comfort?

Where might you be suffering like the church of Smyrna suffered?

Have you suffered for standing for truth? Where can you find comfort?

**Reaching Out**

Comfort someone with the same comfort you have received.