

Revelation 1:9-18; 2:8-11 Fear Buried by the Resurrection of Christ

Your fear of death can be buried by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

1) Your fear of judgment after death can be buried if the risen Christ upholds You (1:9-20; 2:11).

- a) "When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as though dead."—Falling down is the typical response to a theophany. The addition of "as though dead" underscores John's fear in the presence of the holy majesty of Christ.
- b) "But He laid His right hand on me"—The same hand that holds the churches' heavenly life upholds each saint before His holy majesty.
- c) "Fear not"—this is a command as well as a word of comfort
- d) "I am the first and the last"—Divine title indicating sovereignty over history
- e) "the living One"—Divine title indicating sovereignty over life
- f) "I died"—Given the previous titles, this is a most bewildering declaration. He who is God—the First and the Last, the Living One—"was/became dead."
 - i) Rev. 5:6, 9, 12; 7:14—Sacrifice for Atonement
 - ii) Rev. 13:8—Planned before the creation of the world
 - iii) John can *stand* and *live* before Jesus because Jesus has made atonement for his sins and made him clean by His death.
- g) "Behold! I am alive forevermore!"—Resurrection and Endless life;
 - i) Rev. 1:5 "Firstborn of the Dead"—we are united to Christ, thus we have the promise of resurrection
 - ii) Rev. 5:6; Heb. 7:15-22—He who died for your sins, always lives to present His wounds on your behalf before the throne of God.
- h) "and I have the keys of Death and Hades"—Christ's authority to determine the time and manner of each one's death and His authority to empty the grave in the resurrection.

2) Your fear of suffering for Christ in death can be buried if the risen Christ upholds You (2:8-11).

- a) "The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life."
- b) "I know your tribulation . . ."—Tribulation is not just a synonym for suffering, it speaks of the time of trouble that was prophesied in the OT as accompanying the turbulence of the nations as the Lord's Anointed assumes His throne. "Your tribulation," then, is a participation in the afflictions of Christ (Col. 1:24; Rom. 8:17-18).
- c) "Do not fear what you are about to suffer"—no promise that you will not suffer; you need not, and you must not *fear* what you are about to suffer:
 - i) "the devil"—your enemy is a failed insurgency
 - ii) "tested"—Satan's designs are turned by God for His good purpose in your life
 - iii) "ten days"—temporal trials
 - iv) "Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life . . . The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death."—Resurrection life like that of the Risen Lord

What is controlling your decisions, fear of poverty, suffering, death, or faith in the risen Christ and faithfulness to Him?

Are you prepared to stand before the holy majesty of Jesus Christ?

Are you prepared to be a faithful witness for Christ despite the suffering, in light of the reward of enjoying God forever?