



The Church In Smyrna: Faith Molded By Trials

Revelation 2:8-11

- 1) To the church of Smyrna (8a)
 - a) Once defeated; resurrected
 - b) Persecuted, ostracized, hated
- 2) From Jesus Christ—the God-Man (8b)
 - a) The *first and the last* (cf. Isa. 44:6; 48:12-13)
 - b) He who *was dead and has come to life* (cf. 1:17-18)
- 3) What Christ *approves* (9)
 - a) Tribulation that develops strong faith
 - b) Spiritual richness over material poverty
 - c) Enduring slander for His name sake
- 4) Christ *admonishes* those who suffer for His name (10-11)
 - a) Don't run; remain strong
 - b) Suffering is necessary but temporary
 - c) Satan himself is behind our sufferings
 - d) The evil that ails us is *for our testing*
- 5) Only the overcomers are rewarded
 - a) They will receive the *crown of life* (cf. James 1:12)
 - b) They avoid the second death (Rev. 20:14; 21:8)
- 6) Be encouraged!
 - a) The first & the last knows your trials (cf. Heb. 4:14–15)
 - b) He who was dead & is now alive will never leave you (cf. Heb. 13:5-6)

Challenge: Being a Christian can cost you everything. As the end draws near, our tribulations will increase. So we must be ready (1 Peter 4:12ff.). Though we lose everything, we are rich with Christ as our Lord & God.