



April 18, 2010

Celebration Service
Sunday 8:45 am

Pastor David Mitchell

The Brave Church { Smyrna } Revelation 2:8-11

❖ Lessons from Jesus on the nature of suffering for Christians. Revelation 2:8, 9

- Followers of Jesus should expect persecution and suffering because of their faith.

Smyrna=

I Timothy 3:12; Acts 14:22

- Jesus knows about all the ways we will suffer. vs. 8, 9

The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life, says this: 'I know your tribulation...'
Isaiah 44:6

Through *Tribulation* = II Corinthians 7:5, 6

Through *Poverty* = Hebrews 10:34

Through *Blasphemy* =

- Our suffering can reveal to us a richness of our faith. vs. 9

But you are rich...

James 2:5

❖ Counsel from Jesus on how to deal with suffering. Revelation 2:10-11

- Do not fear your suffering since Jesus will control it. vs. 10, 11

Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days.

II Corinthians 4:7-10; John 10:28, 29; John 6:39

➤ He controls the purpose of suffering: to test us.

➤ He controls the degree of suffering: "ten days"

- Be faithful until death to receive Christ's reward. vs. 10, 11

Be faithful until 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 by the second death.

Matthew 10:22

Digging Deeper

Smyrna was a brave church because they suffered for their faith. The government was forcing all to worship their false gods, so believers had to decide whether to stay faithful to Jesus or become socially acceptable by going along with the crowd. Use the following passages to learn more about suffering and the importance of remaining faithful to Jesus.

II Corinthians 6:4-10

Write out this list. How many of these have you experienced? Smyrna believers had experienced poverty because of their persecution and yet John says they are “rich.” What are the spiritually “rich” qualities listed in this suffering passage? Who do you know that has experienced these areas? Pray for them.

Revelation 12:10, 11

How did these people who suffered “overcome” their attacks?

Romans 8:28-31

What promises can you claim from this passage? There is much here, so take your time to reflect on it all.

Luke 22:31-32

What warning did Jesus give to Peter? What hope can you find in this passage even though Peter failed? How does that give you hope?

II Corinthians 12:9, 10

Why can you be content in suffering? How many ways can a believer suffer?

In Revelation 2:11, we are called to be faithful until death. This idea of endurance and perseverance is a repeated many times in the Bible. Read the following passages and reflect on what they teach you about enduring and ask how you are enduring.

Matthew 10:22

Matthew 24:13

John 8:30, 31

I John 2:19

The Bible teaches us why we will suffer. Certainly persecution for our faith is one reason. Read the following passages and write down all the reasons for suffering and consider how this can help you and others who are suffering.

1 Corinthians 11:30-32

Hebrews 12:3-13

2 Corinthians 12:7

Hebrews 5:8

Romans 5:3-5

Acts 9:16

II Corinthians 1:3-7



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