

Guide & Record of your thoughts

12/06/2009 - Week 4 Revelation 2:8 - 11

Following the Message:

1. (2:8) “I am the First and the Last. I am the one who died and who lives.” Those are extremes – death and life. Jesus presents Himself as the Lord of the extremes. He encompasses all the forces and events between these two extremes.
2. (2:8) No matter what experiences God’s people may have, our Lord identifies with us.
3. (2:8) Christians in Smyrna were confronted with the need annually to choose between saying “Jesus is Lord,” or “Caesar is lord.”
4. (2:9) *thlipsis*, a Greek word is a picture of crushing, unending pressure on them.
5. (2:9) The church in Smyrna was rich – they live for values that would never change; riches that could never be taken away.
6. (2:9) Even though the church was being pressured to conform, facing opposition they were comforted by the fact that Jesus said; “I KNOW your afflictions and your poverty. He knows our tribulation, our poverty, and the blasphemy.”
7. (2:10) The first mention of the devil in the book of Revelation here means accuser, not Adversary.
8. (2:10) Suffering is anticipated – even expected for ungodly people, but why should the godly suffer? Scripture gives several reasons. It could be disciplinary, preventive, a demonstration of obedience, or for the provision of a better testimony.
9. (2:10) Believers can be rewarded with at least 5 different crowns:

- a) A crown of Exultation - for those who win others to Christ
- b) A crown of Righteousness - for those who look forward to the coming of Christ
- c) A crown of Life - for those who endured persecution- even to death
- d) A crown of Imperishability for those who run the race of life well
- e) A crown of Glory for those who lead the church with humility

10. (2:10) If one faces persecution, these three (3) things should strengthen you. Know that the persecution is to test us, it is only for a limited time, and we will receive the crown of life if we are faithful even to the point of death.
11. (2:11) The motivation to be an overcomer is The consequences are eternal.
12. (2:11) He says, those of you who are real believers will never be hurt by the second death. That’s the one to worry about. The first death is only physical; the second is the death of the soul.
13. (2:11) Jesus is saying, “If you listen to what this letter is saying to you, if you trust me in times of pressure and persecution, I will give you the gift of eternal life and you will have nothing to fear from the judgment of God. You will be kept safe forever from the second death.”
14. Remember, it is those who heed what is written in this book that will be blessed.

Reflecting on the Text:

1. How much are you willing to endure?
2. How does knowing that Crowns will be rewarded to believers based on how they have lived their life encourage you in your Christian living?