



October 11, 2009
Pastor Steve Smith ~ Lake View Church
#2 in Series: The Letters To The 7 Churches

To Those Who Are Suffering Revelation 2:8-11

Some _____

The name Smyrna means _____, or _____ ... some commentaries even say it means _____.

In Smyrna, the _____ culture and _____ religion thrived ...

The Christians of Smyrna _____ to profess that *Caesar is Lord* and their resistance to such blasphemy _____ them dearly – even their own _____.

A _____ of the Personal Letter

It Is From _____ ...

Jesus immediately taps into the universal language of _____ and extends _____ to a church that is thirsty for encouragement. – v. 8

Two key words in v. 8 ... “*who* _____.”

Hebrews 4:14-16

Five additional key words ... “*and came to* _____ *again.*”

It Explains Their _____ ...

We must look at the Greek terms used.

- ▶ “I know your _____ ...” (ESV – tribulation) The Greek word is *thlipsis* and suggests literal _____, literal c _____ beneath a weight.

“The pressure of events on the church at Smyrna, and the force of circumstances is trying to crush the Christianity out of them.” Barklay

- ▶ “I know your ... _____ ...” The Greek word *ptocheia* means having _____ at all.
- ▶ “... yet you are _____ ...” Jesus contrasts their _____ with _____, reminding them that their true _____ are in heaven.

2 Corinthians 8:9

- ▶ “I know the _____ ...” Instigated by the _____ community.

It Offers _____ ...

- ▶ For the trials ahead! v. 10a - “Do not be _____ ...”

Trusting in a scarred, yet victorious Guide (Jesus) offers _____ and _____ to face even our worst nightmares.

- ▶ To remain _____ – even to the point of _____. v. 10b

It Offers A _____ ...

1. “I will give you the _____ of life.” v. 10b

Jesus is saying in essence, “don’t be afraid to let go of this life for an _____ life in heaven that awaits you.”

2 Corinthians 4:17-18

Luke 9:23-26

2. “He who overcomes will not be _____” v. 11

Overcome = not succumbing to the temptation to _____ our own lives by _____ Christ.

EXAMPLE of one who did overcome is found in _____.

of the Letter

Allow the Holy Spirit of God to apply His healing salve to your life as you ...

1. Remember that the Lord knows all about your _____.
2. Remember that He is _____ with you. Hebrews 13:8
3. Remember to _____ the universal language of comfort to others. 1 Corinthians 1:3-5

Let Christ redeem your pain as He did Paul’s by using it to comfort others! James 1:12 - “Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him.”

Live for what lies ahead and don’t allow the things around you to distract your desire to do so!