

# DEAR SMYRNA REVELATION 2:8-11

## **Introduction**

### **I. The Sources of Suffering**

- Unbelieving government
  
- Unbelieving Jews
  
- The Devil
  
- The Hand of the Lord

Matt 5:11, 12 -

2 Tim 3:12 -

### **II. The Encouragement in Suffering**

1. Christians Never Suffer Alone.
  
2. Christians Are Rich “In Christ”!
  
3. Christians Must Look to Jesus

Ps 56:3 -

HE WHO HAS AN EAR, LET HIM HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAYS TO THE CHURCHES. THE ONE WHO CONQUERS WILL NOT BE HURT BY THE SECOND DEATH.'

### **Questions for Revelation 2:8-11**

- What do you know about the city of Smyrna during the time this letter was written? How might the cultural and political environment have affected the church there?
- Verse 8: What is significant about Jesus identifying Himself as "the First and the Last"? How does this description relate to the themes of suffering and perseverance?
- Verse 9: What does it mean for the church in Smyrna to be called "the poor" but "rich"? How might this contrast resonate with their current situation? What insights can be drawn about the relationship between material wealth and spiritual richness from this passage?
- Verse 10: What does the warning about imprisonment imply for the believers in Smyrna? How does this affect your understanding of their faith?
- Verse 11: What does the promise of the "crown of life" symbolize, and how does it serve as encouragement for those facing persecution?
- How does this passage speak to the theme of perseverance in the face of suffering? What can modern readers learn from the experience of the Smyrnans?
- In what ways can you apply the encouragement from this passage to your own life when facing challenges or hardships?
- How might our church today provide support to those who are suffering or persecuted, based on the example of the Smyrna church?

\*For more study on the topic of suffering there is ghost of books on the subject but one to the best is Job.