



Part 3: Smyrna-Hold On To Your Faith, Difficult Days Ahead

Revelation 2:8-11

#1 - Jesus Identifies With Their Persecution, Revelation 2:8

#2 - Jesus Knew Their Troubles, Revelation 2:9

The word in the Greek for “tribulation” is far more than meaning they are having some passing slight “inconveniences” or “afflictions,” but rather, has the sense of extensive tribulation.

The word used by John about their poverty is a unique word. They aren’t just poor—they are in devastating poverty. They had nothing. Their extreme poverty is explained by the fact that they had been robbed of their goods in the process of their persecution and affliction.

#3 - Jesus’ Encouragement In Suffering, Revelation 2:10a

#4 - Jesus’ Appeal To Remain Faithful, Revelation 2:10b-11

While their persecutors could take their physical lives, it would only result in their receiving the crown of life. Apparently up to this time none had died, but this could be expected. Later Polycarp, having become the bishop of the church in Smyrna, was martyred, and undoubtedly others were also killed.

“The crown of life” is one of several crowns promised to Christians (cf. 1 Cor. 9:25; 1 Thes. 2:19; 2 Tim. 4:6–8; 1 Peter 5:4; Rev. 4:4). The crown of life may be contrasted to the other crowns promised the child of God:

- The crown of righteousness for a godly life (2 Tim. 4:8)
- The crown of glory for faithful shepherds (1 Peter 5:4)
- The crown of gold, the evidence of our redemption (Rev. 4:4)
- The crown of rejoicing (1 Thess. 2:19), believers in heaven won by Paul
- The incorruptible crown (1 Cor. 9:25) for self-control in the race of life.