



Resources

- Watch or listen to Sunday's sermon: abfboone.com/sermons
- Find Life Group resources: abfboone.org/groups/resources

Revelation 2:8-11

[8] "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: 'The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life.

[9] "I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. [10] Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. [11] 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.'

Sermon Outline:

1. The Angel of the Church of Smyrna (8)
2. The Self-Description of Christ (8)
3. The Commendation of the Church (9)
4. The Encouragement to the Church (10)
5. The Call to Hear the Spirit (11)
6. The Promise to the Overcomers (11)

Life Group Leader Notes:





- Although this sermon only had six points and fell one point short of being a “perfect sermon”, it was still powerful :)! What were your main takeaways from this word to the Smyrnan church?
- Pastor Scott made the point that God often tests us to prove our faith. Describe a recent experience when the rubber met the road in your spiritual journey - when you had to practice or apply a biblical teaching. What did you learn from that experience?
- The Smyrnan church had already experienced some persecution, but Jesus was preparing them for an even greater test in the near future. Considering the current spiritual climate in our world, do you think it is wise to prepare for suffering? If so, what practical steps can you take to prepare? How does this letter to Smyrna encourage you and help you prepare?
- Pastor Scott contrasted the churches in Smyrna & Laodicea. Smyrna was materially poor but spiritually rich. Laodicea thought they needed nothing, but they were spiritually poor. Which church would you rather be like?
- The early church often thought of suffering as a privilege. Listen to Grant Osborne’s quote again: “These three (tribulation, poverty, and slander) would never be considered ‘strengths’ today but rather ‘problems’ or even ‘tragedies,’ This is because the church today has forgotten the centrality of ‘the fellowship of his sufferings’ (Phil. 3:10) for the early church. Suffering for Christ was a privilege, not just a sorrow.” Have you ever seen suffering for Jesus as a “privilege”? If you began to see suffering for Jesus as a privilege, how might this change your life?
- Jesus told the church that they would be put in prison as a *test*. God is the one who does the testing. When we arrange our lives to avoid suffering at all costs, is it possible that we are avoiding God’s will for our lives?
- If God calls you to suffer for the faith, do you believe that God will give you the grace to go through suffering in the future? Does anyone have a testimony of a time when God provided the grace to endure?
- What is the reward for overcoming? Why is it important for us to keep our eyes on the reward that Jesus promises? How might that motivate us to endure hardships?

