

Be Steadfast in Suffering Notes

Revelation 2:8-11

Rev. Brian Bill

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Main Point: Trust Jesus completely, especially in suffering, because He holds our past, our present, and our future.

Overview of Smyrna

1. Smyrna was a beautiful city, celebrated for its culture and _____.
2. It called itself the “_____ of Asia.”
3. It was located about 35 miles north of _____.
4. It was home to the _____ of Emperor Tiberius Caesar.

Ten Ways to be Steadfast in Suffering

1. Trust His _____ (vs. 8a).
 - First means “foremost.”
 - Last means “utmost.”
2. Trust His _____ (vs. 8b).
 - Jesus is presented as the redeemer who prepared the way through death to resurrection life.
3. Trust His _____ (vs. 9).
 - This word for “know” means “to see with _____,” not just awareness, but deep, personal understanding.
 - The word “tribulation” refers to trouble, distress, and _____ pressure.
 - It literally means “to press or squeeze.”
 - Christians in Smyrna had at least two heavy weights on their chest: _____ and slander.
 - Slander is a strong word which refers to “evil _____.”
 - Some of the unbelieving Jews did not want this religious freedom extended to Christians so they made several different accusations against them.
4. Trust His _____ (vs. 10a).
 - It literally means, “_____ being afraid” even though there’s more suffering to come.
 - Fear fades when faith focuses on Christ’s _____.
 - Persecution is a _____ (Acts 14:22, John 16:33).
5. Trust His _____ (vs. 10b).
 - The name “devil” means “slanderer or false _____.”
 - The title “Satan” in verse 9 refers to “_____.”
 - The evil one opposes and accuses God’s people.

- Even though people were doing the persecuting, the accusing Adversary _____ it all.
 - God uses suffering to strengthen and _____ us (James 1:2-4)
 - Persecution has a way of unleashing God's power and _____ in our lives.
6. Trust His _____ (vs. 10c).
- We can see that suffering is measure and _____ by God.
7. Trust His _____ (vs. 10d).
- Obedience may cost you _____.
 - "Faithfulness is measured not by ease, but by _____."
8. Trust His _____ (vs. 10e)
- This crown refers to the victor's garland given to _____.
 - The crown Jesus gives is _____, unfading, and forever glorious (1 Corinthians 9:25).
9. Trust His _____ (vs. 11a).
- This is a call to spiritual _____ so we will hear and heed what the Spirit is saying.
 - The idea is, "to lean in and pay _____ attention by receiving this message."
10. Trust His _____ (vs. 11b).
- "Conquer" refers to "being victorious, prevailing, and _____."
 - If you're only born physically, you'll die physically and you will experience eternal separation from the Lord in your "second death" in the lake of fire.
 - If you're born again, you'll experience physical death _____, because eternal life with God has already begun (John 5:24).
 - There is something far worse than physical death; the _____ of eternal separation from God in the sulfurous fires of Hell (Revelation 10:14-15, 21:8).