

CHURCH

Life

Assess,
Listen and
Live



The Church in Smyrna

The Persecuted Church

The Seven Churches of Revelation



Revelation 2:8-11









Assess. Listen. Live

The Lord's assertion

“The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life”



The Lord's address

“I know...”



The Lord's address

“I know...”



“I know your tribulation...”



John 16:33, “These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

2 Tim. 3:12 Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.



“THILIPSIS”

Thilipsis – “a pressing pressure, anything which burdens the spirit, distress”

Rev 2:9, “I know your tribulation (*thilipsis*)...”

John 16:33, “These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation (*thilipsis*), but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

Matt. 7:14 “For the gate is small and the way is narrow (*Thilibo*) that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

If gospel is the message and Christlikeness is the goal,
then “Thilipsis” (tribulation) is inevitable



The Lord's address

“I know...”



“I know your tribulation...”



“I know your tribulation and your
poverty...”



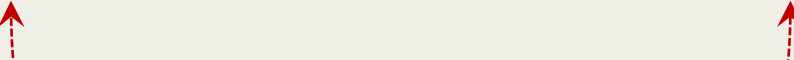
2 Cor. 8:2 that in a great ordeal of affliction (*Thilipsis*) their abundance of joy and their **deep poverty** overflowed in the wealth of their liberality.

2 Cor. 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His **poverty** might become rich.


Rev. 2:9 'I know your tribulation and your **poverty** (but you are rich), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.



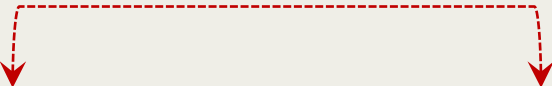
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The Lord's address

“I know...”



“I know your tribulation...”



“I know your tribulation and your poverty...”



“I know your tribulation and your poverty and the blasphemy”





*“Eighty and six years have I served Him, and He has done me no wrong.
How can I blaspheme my King who saved me?” - Polycarp*



Assess. Listen. Live

The Lord's advice

“Do not fear”



The Lord's advice

“Do not fear”

“Be faithful until death”



The Lord's assurance

“I will give you the
crown of life”



The Lord's assurance

“I will give you the
crown of life”

“Will not be hurt by
the second death”

