

*Revelation*

## Jesus Our Hope in Our Struggle against Evil

In the first and last letters to the churches, we saw last week that Jesus calls us to make Him our first love, our priority relationship. Christ's kingdom reign grows in through us when He is our first love.

Because Christ's Kingdom conflicts with the kingdom of darkness, when we are full of the light of Jesus the darkness fights back. In Revelation 2:10 we read, "the devil will put some of you in prison to test you . . ." The letters to the second and sixth churches offer helps to overcome our afflictions.

### SUNDAY MESSAGE NOTES

Four helps to overcome our afflictions:

1. Look \_\_\_\_\_ at Jesus.
2. Know that Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ what you are going through.
3. Jesus has ultimate authority and works even our \_\_\_\_\_ for our good.
4. Jesus gives \_\_\_\_\_ to make us victorious.

### OPENER

What is a question that you have about the Revelation 2:8-11 or 3:7-13?

### PRAYER

"Come, Holy Spirit, open the Word to us and help us to be victorious in our struggle against evil."

### Discussion Questions

**A Note of Explanation:** You may have noticed that each letter to each church is addressed, "To the angel of the church in \_\_\_\_\_ write:" We have yet to have definition to who or what the angel is. It might be a real angel that has some role in the congregation. Or it may refer symbolically to a human messenger (the word angel means messenger), perhaps a preacher. Or, it may be a metaphor to the ethos or spirit of each church. Each church has a corporate personality. Since every reference to an angel in Revelation refers to a supernatural being and never a corporate personality or a human being, it's most likely these are the "guardian angel" found in Acts 12 and similar to the angels of Daniel 10 assigned to nations and people groups.

1. Read Revelation 2:8 and 3:7. What descriptions of Jesus grow your confidence in Him? How do these qualities of Jesus help you to be victorious over life's trials and afflictions?

2. Read Revelation 2:9-10 and 3:8-9. What is the source of the afflictions for the believers in both Smyrna and Philadelphia? What does Jesus say that makes you curious? What does Jesus say to these churches that gives you hope in affliction?
  
3. In both messages Jesus show that He has ultimate authority so that He works even our afflictions for our good. Looking again at 2:9-10 and 3:9, in what ways does Jesus manifest His authority over these enemies of the Christians?
  
4. Read Revelation 2:10-11 and 3:10-12. What promises does Jesus give us? How do these promises help or motivate you to overcome the afflictions of your life and be faithful to Jesus?
  
5. Jesus openly speaks about the devil and Satan to His churches. Even though our culture smirks at the idea that there is a malevolent spiritual being like Satan, how does it impact your faith to know that Jesus speaks so openly about our enemy?

### **Meditate**

Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death. Revelation 2:11

### **Time Alone With God Reading Guide**

Day 1: Revelation 1  
Day 2: Revelation 2  
Day 3: Revelation 3  
Day 4: Revelation 4

Day 5: Revelation 5  
Day 6: Revelation 6-7  
Day 7: 1 Peter 4:12-14