

Lesson 4 – Revelation 2:8-11
Smyrna: The Church _____ to _____

1. The Introduction (v8).

- a. Jesus conquered through _____ (Col 2:13-15). He defeated death by _____ (1 Cor 15:55-57).
- b. The Church in Smyrna is being _____ to do the same.

2. The Lord’s Commendation (v9).

- a. Not a single _____ comment.
- b. This is a _____ church in the midst of _____ territory.
 - 1) The city of Smyrna is the center of _____ worship in Asia Minor and even had a temple to the _____ Tiberius.
 - 2) Because it is rock solid, the Lord has a special and very important _____ for them. A mission that will be quite _____ and _____ on them.

3. The Lord’s Call (v10).

- a. Suffering does not always equal _____ / _____ – e.g., John 9:1-3.
- b. Christ sometimes calls on His church to suffer as a _____ for Him!**
 - 1) Can this be true?
 - a) ἵνα (hina) – “that” = introduces a _____ clause.
 - b) “ten” = _____.
 - 2) If this is not true then what is the alternative? (This is a “_____ - _____” block, which means that Jesus is not capable of _____ His church. What about the Book of Job?)
 - 3) Why would He call upon His church to suffer?
 - a) Suffering (i.e. fiery trials) causes _____:**
 - 1] Through the _____ of the Gospel:
 - a] *Read* Acts 8:1-4.

b] Church history.

2] Through personal _____ (i.e. how we _____ the suffering/persecution):

a] *Read Acts 16:22-40.*

b] *Read Phps 1:12-30.*

b) Suffering (i.e. fiery trials) _____ the church:

1] Fire is used to _____ gold and silver just as fiery trails are used to _____ the church.

2] 1 Cor 11:19 – “For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.”

3] 1 John 2:19 – “They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.”

c) Suffering (i.e. fiery trials) _____ our faith:

1] Just as fire and pressure _____ coal into diamonds, fiery trials _____ us into much stronger and far more valuable Christians.

a] 1 Pet 1:7 – “That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:”

b] Compare Mark 14:66-71 to Acts 4:8-12.

2] We, as members of the body of Christ, need to see suffering as an _____ and not as a _____ (e.g. Acts 5:40-6:1a).

a] It keeps us _____ – 2 Cor 12:7.

b] It keeps us _____ on God for strength – 2 Cor 12:9.

c] It gives us a powerful opportunity to _____ our faith – 2 Cor 12:10.

1- For example, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego’s trial brought the Lord “praise and honour and glory” across the entire _____ Empire – see Dan 3:28-29.

2- For example, Daniel's trial brought the Lord "praise and honour and glory" across the entire _____ Empire – see Dan 6:25-27.

4) The keys to standing firm in the face of suffering/persecution:

a) "***Fear none*** of those things which thou shalt suffer":

1] Pres, Pass, Imp (with μη = Imperative of Prohibition = stop, do not, or make it your habit not to) – Why? _____ is Satan's weapon against us.

2] Matt 10:28 - "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

b) "***be*** thou ***faithful*** unto death":

1] Pres, M/D, Imp = "_____ being faithful"

2] _____ is our weapon against Satan – see Rev 12:11.

3] "and I will give thee a crown of life." – John 10:27-30.

5) The example of Polycarp.

4. The Reward That Awaits Those Willing to Suffer (v11).

a. Matt 10:39 – "He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it."

b. Are you willing to suffer for Christ? Are you willing to overcome death by being willing to die for Christ?