



Sermon Discussion Guide

"The Church at Smyrna - Faithful to the End"

Revelation 2:8-11
August 30, 2015

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Optional Opener:

How do you understand what it means to be "rich"— what does it look like in your life to be "rich"?

Questions:

1. Read Isaiah 44:6 and 48:12-13. Why is Jesus Christ known as the First and the Last (v 8)?
2. What does Jesus Christ inform the Church at Smyrna that he knows about their present condition (v 9)? How can they, or any church, be both poor and rich?
3. What lies in store for the Church in the near future (v 10)? What is the purpose of this impending trial (v 10)?

In light of Daniel 1:11-14 (please read), what is the significance of the ten-day duration of the trial (v 10)? [See at bottom for a hint.]

4. What command does Jesus Christ give to the Church (v 10)?
5. What promise does Jesus Christ make to the Church (v 10)? Please read James 1:12 and 1 Peter 5:4.

Practical application:

6. Has it been harder to live out your faith when you've had little, or when you've had enough or plenty? Why?
7. "Sometimes we are under pressure because we are making careless, wrong or ungodly choices. But sometimes we are under pressure because we are making wise, right and godly choices. The disciples at Smyrna were experiencing tribulation because they were living Godly lives (D. Johnson, p. 67)."

In what ways are you spiritually rich? How have pressures in your faith had a part in bringing forth these riches?

*Hint:

*During this time the number ten (10) stood for human completion: five fingers on each hand, makes ten; five toes on each foot, makes ten. Ten days of testing is a limited time of trial. In other words, a time of testing in faith will not be without an end, rather it will have a point of completion.