



#SEVENCHURCHES

THE 7 CHURCHES OF REVELATION





#SEVENCHURCHES

FAITHFUL TO DEATH

@JERRYGODSEY



Revelation 2:8-11

“To the angel of the church in Smyrna write:

These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. ⁹ I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

¹⁰ Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you



Revelation 2:8-11

will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown.

¹¹ 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.





Suffering is part of the Christian life.





A SUFFERING CHURCH, A TESTED CHURCH

POVERTY

Revelation 2:9

I know your afflictions and your poverty...





A SUFFERING CHURCH, A TESTED CHURCH

SLANDER

Revelation 2:9

I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.





A SUFFERING CHURCH, A TESTED CHURCH

PRISON

Revelation 2:10

Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days.





A SUFFERING CHURCH, A TESTED CHURCH

DEATH

Revelation 2:10

Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown.





A SUFFERING CHURCH, A TESTED CHURCH

DEATH

Revelation 12:11

They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.





When God allows suffering, he is purifying his church.





A SUFFERING CHURCH, A TESTED CHURCH

1 Peter 1:6-7

In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.





*There is always a “so that” in
our suffering.*





Suffering isn't designed by God to destroy our faith, but to intensify it.





“When you observe that the fire in your room is going down, you don’t just put on more coals. You need the poker to stir the fire. God often uses the black poker of adversity in order that the flame of devotion may bring more blessing.”

AW Pink





THE COMFORT WE NEED

CHRIST HAS CONQUERED DEATH

Revelation 2:8

These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again.





THE COMFORT WE NEED

CHRIST HAS CONQUERED DEATH

Revelation 1:18

I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.





THE COMFORT WE NEED

CHRIST HAS CONQUERED DEATH

John 11:25-26

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”





THE COMFORT WE NEED

CHRIST HAS CONQUERED DEATH

Hebrews 2:14-15

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.





We are set free from fear of death or should be. So, what are we afraid of?





THE COMFORT WE NEED

CHRIST KNOWS OUR SUFFERING IN DETAIL

Revelation 2:9

I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.





THE COMFORT WE NEED

CHRIST KNOWS OUR SUFFERING IN DETAIL

Psalms 34:18

The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.





THE COMFORT WE NEED

CHRIST IS SOVEREIGN OVER OUR SUFFERINGS

Revelation 2:10

Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days.





THE COMFORT WE NEED

CHRIST IS SOVEREIGN OVER OUR SUFFERINGS

1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.





THE COMFORT WE NEED

CHRIST REWARDS THE SUFFERING CHURCH

Revelation 2:9

I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich!





THE COMFORT WE NEED

CHRIST REWARDS THE SUFFERING CHURCH

Matthew 5:11-12

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.





DON'T FEAR THE FIRST DEATH

Revelation 2:11

The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death.





DON'T FEAR THE FIRST DEATH

Revelation 20:6

Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.





DON'T FEAR THE FIRST DEATH

Revelation 20:14

Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.





DON'T FEAR THE FIRST DEATH

Revelation 21:8

But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”





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