

## Discussion & Application:

1. Using Google Search, a Bible program, or a concordance, search the Bible to see what it says about “**suffering**” and “**persecution.**” What should our biblical attitude be toward suffering? How can we develop / maintain that attitude? [Here are a few verses to get you started: 1 Peter 3:13-17; 4:1-2; 2 Tim. 3:12; John 15:20; Acts 14:22; 2 Cor. 4:7-18]
2. Make a list of ways that believers in Jesus **suffer persecution in America**? What are believers tempted to do when faced with persecution / suffering because of their faith in Jesus and convictions from the Bible? What should believers do when facing those temptations? How can we help each other do what we should do?
3. Believers in Smyrna were also facing **martyrdom** because of their faith in Jesus alone. How did the portrait of Jesus in verse 8 help them? List specific ways for each phrase:
  - The first and the last
  - Who was dead
  - And has come to life
4. In the **prescription**, Jesus didn’t pretend like they weren’t going to suffer (persecution or martyrdom). What are the two commands He gives them in v. 10 when those things come. How are you doing in those two specific areas? What biblical truths help you grow stronger in those areas? How might you help other believers grow in those areas and be obedient to Jesus when suffering?
5. What is the **crown of life**? What does it mean to **overcome**? What is the **second death**? How do these promises help believers when suffering persecution and possible martyrdom?
6. **Read Revelation 2-3 every day this week.** Write down the strengths and weaknesses of each of the 7 churches. How are we doing at The Bridge in each of those areas? How will you help The Bridge grow stronger in those areas?
7. **Make a list of at least 5 people you know who do not yet know Jesus as Savior & Lord.** Pray daily and seek opportunities to tell them about Jesus. Invite them to a LIFE Group, church worship service, and/or our Christmas Concert on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

December 8, 2024

*The Bridge Bible Fellowship*

Pastor Paul S. Brown

Revelation 2:8-11

## “The Things Which Are” – Part 2 Our Glorious Lord’s Messages to the Church at Smyrna

- I. The Things Which You Have Seen – Revelation 1
- II. **The Things Which Are – Revelation 2-3**
  - A. The Church at Ephesus (2:1-7)
  - B. **The Church at Smyrna (2:8-11)**
    1. **Place (8) – And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write:**
    2. **Portrait (8) – The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life, says this:**

**3. Praise (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.**

**6. Promise (10d-11) – and I will give you the crown of life. ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.’**

**4. Problem –**

**5. Prescription (10) – ‘Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death,**

**So What?**