

# LETTERS FROM JESUS

PART 3: TEMPTED TO QUIT

REVELATION 2:8-11



## **Sermon Overview**

The church in Smyrna was hated by the world because of their faithfulness to Jesus, and are one of two of the seven churches that received no rebuke from Jesus. Instead, Jesus encourages the church to remember who He is and to persevere in their faith.

## **PART THREE**

Often, if your love for Christ is real, it will cause you suffering. This was the case of the church in Smyrna.

*<sup>8</sup> “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.*

*<sup>9</sup> I know your afflictions and your poverty yet you are rich! I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.*

*<sup>10</sup> 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. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.*

*<sup>11</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death.*

### **REVELATION 2:8-11**

#### **PERSECUTED RIGHTEOUSNESS’ SAKE**

The church in Smyrna was hated by the world because of their faithfulness to Jesus, and are one of two of the seven churches that received no rebuke from Jesus.

Jesus encourages His frightened church by reminding them that:

## **HE AND HE ALONE HAS ALL OF THE POWER**

Jesus is the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last. He was there before creation, and He will be there when it is all destroyed. He has defeated the enemy, all the church must do is trust Him.

## **HE AND HE ALONE KNOWS ALL THINGS**

Jesus knows the troubles afflicting the church, is able to sympathize due to His own suffering, and is able to present the truth in the face of false accusations.

## **HE AND HE ALONE HAS A PURPOSE FOR EVERYTHING**

The enemy tempts believers so that they might be destroyed, but Jesus turns the temptation into a test so that He might give them victory.

*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. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.*

## **REVELATION 2:10**

In verse 10, Jesus assures the church of a time limit for their suffering—every one of the enemy's efforts will ultimately amount to nothing when you put your trust in Jesus Christ.