



MISSION CITY

BIBLE CHURCH

DATE: Sunday, November 7, 2021

TITLE: A Letter to a Suffering Church

SERIES: The Book of Revelation: Worthy is the Lamb

PASSAGE: Revelation 2:8-11

Two strategies for a suffering church . . .

1) Remember the facts before the fight (v8-9; cf., Isaiah 48:12-13)

Four facts to remember:

- A) Our lives are _____ by Jesus (v8b)
- B) It may be _____ now but there's _____ on the horizon (v8c)
- C) Our earthly _____ are nothing compared to our eternal _____ (v9a)
- D) Jesus knows the _____ of our suffering (v9b)

2) Remember the plan during the pain (v10-11)

A. Don't fear the suffering to come (v10a) because:

- 1) There's always more going on than _____ (v10b)
- 2) Jesus is committed to _____ us (v10c)
- 3) There's a divine _____ on your suffering (v10d)

B. Be faithful to the point of death (v10e) because:

- 1) The cross you _____ will lead to the crown you _____ (v10f; cf., James 1:12)
- 2) Your present _____ is only a shadow of your eternal _____ (v11)

(*See page 2 for **PRAYER POINTS**.)

As we continue in our series through the letters to the seven churches in Revelation 2 and 3, let's pray together through these passages. Let's place ourselves humbly before the Lord and trust him to teach Mission City Bible Church what we need to know and do as a result of our time in the word and in prayer. Use these prayer starters, as needed, and move from one section to the next, as appropriate.

THE PRAISEWORTHY QUALITIES OF JESUS:

- He is the first and the last (v8)
- He died and came to life (v8)
- He knows our tribulation, poverty, and slander (v9)
- He is the Lord of eternal riches (v9)
- He knows what we're about to suffer (v10)
- He tests us to refine/purify us (v10)
- He has the power to bring suffering to an end (v10)
- He is victorious over death and gives us the crown of life (v10)
- He speaks to his churches through his Spirit (v11)
- He empowers us to conquer (v11)
- He delivers us from eternal death (v11)

REVERENCE:

- Lord, we worship you because . . .
- Jesus, I praise you because you refined me when . . .
- Lord, thank you that you were with me through . . .

RESPONSE:

- Lord, I confess that I've been worried about . . .
- Lord, I admit that I haven't fully trusted you with . . .
- Jesus, I confess that I sometimes have difficulty believing you are . . .

REQUEST:

- Lord, help us as a church to suffer well when the time comes
- Lord, show us the areas of our lives where we need to take a stand for you
- Lord, strengthen me to trust that you're testing is for my good when . . .
- Lord, please bring an end to the suffering of . . . (pray for the name or circumstance)
- Lord, help our church remember that you are faithful even when . . .

READINESS:

- Jesus, when we suffer help us to trust you for . . .
- Lord, help us to believe we are eternally rich even when . . .
- Lord, when we feel crushed by the suffering, help us remember that you are . . .