

VII

THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION

Growth Group Opener:

What is the most “first world problem” you’ve faced this week?

Week 3: Read Revelation 2:8-11; James 2:5

Why is the way Jesus is described in Rev. 2:8 important to the message of the letter?

What encouragement can we take from this description of our Savior?

What does it mean when Jesus says He knows the church’s affliction and poverty, yet they are rich? How can this be? Refer to James 2:5 as well.

What difference does it make that Jesus sees our struggles?

Why would Jesus tell this church not to be afraid of the suffering to come?
Where does their courage and hope come from?

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What phrases do we read in these verses that show us that God is still in control, even as the devil and evil people are persecuting the church?

Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, 1 Peter 3:17-18, 1 Peter 4:1-2, Revelation 20:14-15.

How does persecution lead to gaining a crown of life and being unhurt by the second death?

What do we learn about God in these passages?

Is there anything you feel the Holy Spirit nudging you to look at more closely?

Prayer:

Father, thank you for seeing us. Thank you for knowing our struggles, and always remaining in them with us. Help us to trust that the struggles we encounter in life are meant to grow us closer to you and to deeply refine us. Lord, give us the courage and strength to stand firm in you, to stand firm in our faith, and to trust that this present life is not the end for those of us that abide in you. In the name of Jesus, amen.

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