

" Smyrna – The Church of Persecution "

Portions of this message were inspired during personal prayer and study time primarily in the Book of Revelation. Additional study sources for this series include: *The Revelation* by John F. Walvoord; *The Revelation Record* by Henry M. Morris; *E. Quake* by Jack Hayford; *Keys to Revelation* study notes by Jack Hayford; *The New International Bible Commentary*, edited by F. F. Bruce; *The NIV Study Bible*, 1985 by The Zondervan Corporation; *Thru the Bible* by J. Vernon McGee; *Provision of History* by Elizabeth Williams; *Seeing Things John's Way* by David A. Jesilove; *The Book of Revelation (Revised)*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament by Robert H. Mounce; *Revelation Expounded* by Finis Jennings Dake; *The Book of Revelation* by Clarence Larkin; *Systematic Theology (Revised Edition)* edited by Stanley M. Horton; *Bible Doctrines: A Pentecostal Perspective* by William W. Menzies and Stanley M. Horton; *Faith Lessons on the Early Church: Conquering the Gates of Hell* by Ray Vander Laan; *Revelation: Four Views*, edited by Steve Gregg; LearnTheBible.org; JewishEncyclopedia.com; AllAboutArchaeology.org; BiblePlaces.com; Sacred-Destinations.com; GodsCare.net; BenedictSeraphim.WordPress.com;
Pastor Ed recommends these and other resources to you. He invites you to contact him at info@EastonWorshipCenter.org to join in our online discussions.

June 20, 2010
Easton Worship Center

Revelation 2:8-11 NIV

8a "To the angel of the church in Smyrna write:

Revelation 2 NIV

8b These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again.

Revelation 2 NIV

9a I know your afflictions and your poverty — yet you are rich!

Matthew 6:19-21 NIV

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Luke 6:20

"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God."

James 2:5

Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?

Revelation 2 NIV

9b I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

Romans 2:28-29

28 A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. 29 No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code.

John 8:31-37

Revelation 2 NIV

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

2 Timothy 3:12-15 NIV

*In fact, **everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted**, while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.*

Matthew 10:28 NIV

Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.



James 1:12 NIV

12 Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

Revelation 2 NIV

11 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.

Q. Do you “hold beliefs” about God, or do His “convictions hold you”?
Would you be willing to stand strong in the face of such suffering as the Smyrna church had?

Sometimes suffering is the will of God for us.
Suffering can be ...
- Disciplinary (1 Corinthians 11.30-32; Hebrews 12.3-13)
- Preventative (2 Corinthians 12.7)
- Teaching (Hebrews 5.8; Romans 5.3-5)
- Better testimony for Christ (Acts 9.16)x

<i>Life Scriptures for this week</i>	
Mon, Jun 21	Revelation 2.8-11
Tue, Jun 22	Matthew 6.19-21; James 2.5
Wed, Jun 23	Romans 2.28-29; John 8.31-39
Thu, Jun 24	2 Timothy 3.12; Matthew 10.28
Fri, Jun 25	James 1.12
Sat, Jun 26	2 Timothy 3.12-17
Sun, Jun 27	Acts 9.16