

VISION OF JESUS — VIEW OF HIS CHURCH

6. His View of Smyrna: The Suffering Church

Revelation 2:8-11

Discussion Questions

Chris

1. This morning we learned that a Christian is someone who thinks and lives in light of who Jesus is! Can that be said of you? Do you live and think in light of who Jesus is? What does that mean?
2. The city in Smyrna was beautiful and prosperous, but the church was described as suffering and impoverished. Jesus said that the beauty and prosperity of Smyrna was a mirage; a facade -- they were in fact living in spiritual abject poverty because of their choice to worship Rome and Rome's man. In contrast, the church was physically poor, but were spiritually wealthy because they refused to compromise and give worship to a caesar. Which of these two camps do you resemble? In what ways have you offered your allegiance to the world? In what ways have you offered a pinch of incense to the god of this age, while at the same time coming into the temple of the Lord to lift hands and sing songs to Jesus?
3. How does it encourage you that Jesus sees those that suffer and that He promised the believers in Smyrna that their suffering would be measured; it would not last forever; there would be an end to it? When you think of your crushing situation, how does that speak to you?
4. Pastor Richard ended today's study saying: "The believers in Smyrna found Jesus worth dying for." Can you say that? Jesus died for you, are you willing to die for Him? Or perhaps, a more fitting question: will you live for Him?
5. If you don't find Jesus worth living for, how can you ever think Him worth dying for? What are you living for?

Travis

1. In light of tribulations and trials, how does it encourage you to know Jesus is the first and last - that neither time nor things within time pose any limitation for Him?
2. As we go through trials and tribulation, what might our flesh and doubt cause us to believe about Jesus?
3. What does it mean to you that Jesus, who holds all things together, sees and knows as we experience tribulation?

4. How do we make Jesus our anchor when we go through trials and tribulation?
5. Jesus acknowledges this church was poor, but yet He called them rich. Why is that? How does Jesus measure wealth compared to fallen culture? Personally, how do you measure wealth and success?