



Scripture

Revelation 2:8-11

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Hope for a Hurting Church

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“Suffering is the badge of the true Christian. The disciple is not above his master...Discipleship means allegiance to the suffering Christ, and it is therefore not at all surprising that Christians should be called upon to suffer.”

~**Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

I. Christ Over His Suffering Church

A. Christ is Sovereign Over His Suffering Church - Vs. 8

Isaiah 46:9-10 -

I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, “My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose.”

I. Christ Over His Suffering Church

**B. Christ Empowers His Suffering Church
- Vs. 8**

C. Christ Knows His Suffering Church - Vs. 9

II. Christ's Commands to His Suffering Church

A. Do Not Fear - Vs. 10

“There is no question here about who is in the right and who is in the wrong. There is no suggestion from Jesus that a change in strategy might palliate the adversaries of the church. There is none of this namby-pamby nonsense suggesting that maybe if the Christians were less dogmatic, or maybe if they were more open to the possibility of there being more than one right way, they would not be suffering. None of that garbage from Jesus. He recognizes who the enemy is, and it is clear that those who oppose his people are diabolical. The devil is about to have them arrested.”

~James Hamilton

II. Christ's Commands to His Suffering Church

B. Be Faithful Unto Death - Vs. 10

III. Christ's Assurances to His Suffering Church

A. You are Rich! - Vs. 9

II Corinthians 6:10 -

“Having nothing, but possessing everything”

III. Christ's Assurances to His Suffering Church

A. You are Rich! - Vs. 9

Hebrews 11:26 -

He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.

III. Christ's Assurances to His Suffering Church

B. God Has His Purposes - Vs. 10

I Peter 1:5-7 -

By God's power (you) are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

III. Christ's Assurances to His Suffering Church

C. The Time of Suffering is Limited - Vs. 10

D. Those Who Die Will Live Eternally

- Vs. 10-11

James 1:12 -

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

III. Christ's Assurances to His Suffering Church

D. Those Who Die Will Live Eternally

- Vs. 10-11

Romans 8:16-18 -

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Suggested Reading:

Foxe's Book of Martyrs, John Foxe

Jesus Freaks, DC Talk

The Scots Worthies, John Howie

The Insanity of Obedience, Nik Ripken

II Corinthians 4:16-18 -

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.