

ULC Sermon Study Resource
Smyrna: The Suffering Church
Pastor Pastor Gabe
October 22nd, 2023

Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: How do you think that Social Media influencers have shaped how we view ourselves and others?

Reading: (Revelation 2:8-11)

1. Poverty and Persecution (Revelation 2:8-9)

- Jesus says that the accusations and slander against believers are lies from the enemy.
- The poor and persecuted are drawn to Jesus because he knows their sufferings.
- Jesus invites us to live a fuller life founded in faithfulness to him.

Q: Why does Jesus state that the liars are a part of a “synagogue of Satan?”

2. Fear and Love (Revelations 2:10)

- Keep Jesus’ love as your first love
- Do not fall into the trap of “spiritual indifference”
- You can be driven by love and you can be driven by fear. But fear can take over, only if you let it.

Q: How can we not fear when we suffer?

3. Death and Judgement (Revelations 2:11)

- Death cannot stop us from receiving the gift of God’s love
- Take comfort in the words of God’s promises.
- We shouldn’t fear anything in this world because we are united with Christ.

Q: How does faith through Christ save us from death?

Reflection/Application Questions:

1. How can we live a fuller life through Christ?
2. How might Satan still spread lies and slander at the Christian Church today?
3. Why do you think that the opposite of love is fear?
4. What does it mean to fear death?

Suggestions for further study:

- Luke 1:46-47. What does Mary's Song of Praise show us about God's mercy for those who are poor?
- 1 John 4:18. How can we show God's love to those who have wronged us?
- Romans 8:37-39. What does this tell us about the love of God through Jesus?

Closing Prayer:

Dear Lord, Thank you for this time that we get to take out of our day to spend time in your word. We know that you have created us to love one another and not to live in fear. Help us understand your love and forgiveness as we extend our gifts to help others in our daily lives. It is in Jesus' name that we pray, Amen.