

REVELATION

The King is Coming!

Jesus Encourages the Persecuted Church

INTRO: *We continue our study of Jesus' letters to the seven churches. Today we examine His letter to the Church at **Smyrna**. Remember that the seven churches represent ALL Churches during the Age between Advents.*

I. The glorified _____ judges His _____ (2:8).

*This judgment is not to **condemn** but to **convict** for the purpose of change. His self-identification is critical to what He will say!*

II. The Church will suffer _____ (2:9).

Jesus knows what we endure for His Name sake; He promised it and so did His Apostles. One could say that persecution is not an abnormal situation for Christians.

III. Do not _____ persecution (2:10-11). *Despite how our flesh might be tempted to react, there are two reasons offered in our text for not fearing.*

A. _____.
God is sovereign and permits testing for multiple reasons, all for His glory.

B. _____.
Jesus suffered the greatest test and passed it. His victory ensures ours because of our identification with Him by faith!