

A Must Read! series

Chapter Two: A Rich Poor People

Message Text: Revelation 2:8-11

March 20/21, 2010

Background:

The city

The church

Hardship upon hardship

A Sweet aroma

Been there, done that

The good life

There is a price and reward for following Christ.

Go Deeper:

- 1) How would you define “the good life?” Explain.
- 2) According to Revelation 2:8-11 how would Jesus define “the good life?”
- 3) How are your definition and Jesus definition similar? How are they different?
- 4) What do you think about Jesus definition of “the good life?” Explain.
- 5) If you were in the midst of the situation the church at Smyrna was experiencing and you heard it was going to get worse how would you respond?
- 6) How is knowing that Jesus has been everywhere He is leading us to go bring comfort in your circumstance?
- 7) How have you witnessed ‘crushing’ bringing out what is really on the inside of you or someone else? Why do you think ‘crushing’ has this effect?
- 8) Would Jesus have considered it a sweet aroma? Explain.
- 9) Are there some things in your life that you are clinging to more tightly than Jesus? If so, how can you release your grasp on those things and replace them with Jesus?
- 10) Why do you think it is so hard to keep our grasp tightly fixed on Jesus Christ?
- 11) Since we do not live in the midst of the persecution and hardship the church of Smyrna did what lessons do we take away from their experience that can apply our experience? Explain.

Next Steps:

- I will uplift my Christian brothers and sisters around the world who are persecuted for their faith by praying for them regularly and being informed of what is going on in the church around the world (see www.persecution.com).
- I have some things I am clinging to more than Christ. I will ask God to help me release my grip on one of them this week and replace it with Jesus Christ.
- I am feeling ‘crushed’ right now and am not sure my aroma is sweet. I will spend some time this week releasing my weight to God and asking Him to be my source of faith and courage.
- Write in your own: _____