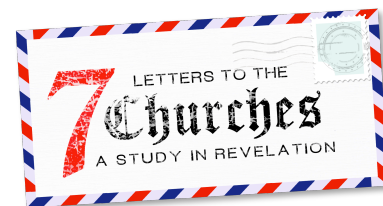


Community Group Discussion Guide



Sunday, May 17, 2020

Scripture: Revelation 2:8-11

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

In his letter to Smyrna, Jesus reminds them that he is the eternal Christ who overcame death, encourages them to remain fearless amidst trials and tribulations, and promises the crown of life to those who remain faithful.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION *(Use along with Reading: Ante Faciem Dei)*

- Describe the basic structure or pattern of the letters.
- What does the text indicate about the cultural and geopolitical context of Smyrna?
- What does Jesus remind the church of Smyrna about himself? How is this a source of encouragement and comfort both to them? Is the reality of the eternal Christ and his gospel your motivation to live fearlessly and courageously for his glory?
- What tribulations did they suffer? Although materially poor, how were they simultaneously rich (Ephesians 1:7, 18; 2:4, 7; 3:8)? Do you treasure Christ and his gospel over worldly riches?
- Who was slandering the church at Smyrna? Why does he call them a synagogue of Satan (John 8:44; Romans 2:28; Galatians 3:29)?
- Instead of immediately removing their suffering, what did Jesus tell them was coming? Like them, what does God intend to teach his people through trials and testing (2 Corinthians 8:12-16; Psalm 56:1; John 16:33)?
- Are you aware of and praying for the persecuted church around the world?
- How can we remain faithful unto death? What reward does Jesus promise to those who endure/conquer? What is the ultimate destiny of those who reject Christ?