

Revelation 2:8-11 – “The Paradox Church – The Suffering, Poor Church is Rich!”

7 letters – 1 down, 6 to go...

- These are ___ real churches that existed when John wrote to them.
- Some more immediately relevant, others may be more prophetic...
- Ephesus – Remember. _____ Do. Or Else! Why? They had left their first _____
- EFCA – We cannot love our doctrine rather than (more than) the One who doctrine is about...
- EFCA – Love for Jesus cannot become mechanical; sound doctrine & loving/following Jesus.

Revelation 2:8 – The Church in Smyrna; The One who speaks

- Approximately _____ miles due north from Ephesus...
- Each message follows a particular pattern – deviations are significant...
- Messages in whole follow chiasmic pattern – 1 & 7, 2 & 6, 3 & 5, 4 exhibit similarities...
- Smyrna (“bitter”) – seaport on the _____ Sea; a large, wealthy, beautiful city
- Center for both pagan and _____ worship...
- Jesus described as the first and last, who was dead & has come to life (See Rev. 1:17-18).
 - Reminds them that He is the eternal One; they belong to the Lord of _____, Creator of all.
 - He is “the last” in the sense that all history is moving one day to Him...
 - This eternal One has entered into _____ & _____; experienced death & resurrection...

Revelation 2:9: What Jesus Knows About Them...

- He knows them personally, knows what they are experiencing: tribulation, poverty, blasphemy.
- Poverty – not just poor but abject poverty. How?
- Blasphemy – slander by certain _____ – descendants of Abraham but not believers in Jesus...
- Rich! – But how? Rich in what? _____

Revelation 2:10-11: The Challenge...The Promise

- After such, would expect the negative but there is no negative – no fault, no critical problem...
- “Do not fear what you are about to suffer...” How’s that for encouragement?
- How does “do not fear” help? How does commanding “be faithful” help? Why would it?
 - Because of who says it – He experienced death & overcame it; (See _____ 10:28)
 - Because He will give you the crown of life (See _____ 1:12)
- He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches – who has ears to hear?
- Promise – He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.
 - What is the 2nd death? (See Revelation 20:14) It is _____
 - Who overcomes? (See 1 John 5:4-5) It is _____
 - Who is not hurt by the 2nd death? (See Revelation 20:6) It is _____

Heed These Things:

- Complete reversal of the consequences of _____ in the Garden...
- 2nd death will not hurt you if you have placed your unbridled faith in Jesus Christ...
 - Is Jesus the One you turn to for your hope, for your life? _____
 - Have you seen what your life apart from Him meant & then been humbled by God’s grace?
- 2nd death is very present reality if you have not turned to Jesus, trusting in Him...
- Contrast of contrasts: no matter how much you endure – Rich (_____ Christ)
- Contrast of contrasts: no matter how much you have/do – suffer fate of 2nd death (apart from Christ)
- Which is your reality? If with Christ, you are His no matter. “Be faithful” – even to point of death...
- Why prophetic-like? Take a look around...do you see it coming here, faster & faster?? _____
- All over the world already, Christians thrown into prison, beaten, left to die...for loving Jesus.
- If this is the future or our kids, let us embrace & teach: Jesus has overcome sin & _____
- Let us loudly proclaim – He is the _____ and the _____...believe in Him...never die!
- Do not fear suffering, even to the point of death – Jesus endured both & emerged victorious.
- Today – caught a glimpse of the joy set before us: Jesus is the ultimate treasure...
- If you have the Son, you are _____ indeed!