**The Book of Revelation 2:8-11**

* How would you define the term “Christian”?

**Basic Facts**

* The church of Smyrna was told some of them would be thrown in prison by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Jesus says that he who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Key Phrases**

* *Smyrna:* Smyrna means “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,” the substance used for perfume and often for anointing a dead body for aromatic purposes. Called the crown of Asia, this ancient city (modern Izmir, Turkey) was the most beautiful in Asia Minor and a center of science and medicine.
* Always on the winner’s side in the Roman wars, Smyrna’s intense loyalty to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ resulted in a strong emperor-worship cult Fifty years after Jon’s death.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the bishop or pastor of the church in Smyrna, was burned alive at the age of 86 for refusing to worship \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. A large Jewish community in the city also proved hostile to the early church.
* *Synagogue of Satan:* With the rejection of its messiah, Judaism becomes as much a tool of Satan as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* *Devil:* The Greek name for God’s archenemy means “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”
* *Tribulation ten days:* Their imprisonment will be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* *Crown of life:* “Crown” here does not refer to the kind royalty wear, but to the wreath awarded to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* *Who overcomes:* This identifies every \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* *The second death:* The first death is only physical; the second death is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Revelation 2:8-11 Discussion Questions**

1. According to Jesus’ description of Himself in verse 8, what separates Jesus from every other false deity that might be worshiped? Why was this important for the church of Smyrna? Why is it important for us?
2. What situation did the church at Smyrna face? What did God promise them? How do these facts square with the expectations of most Western Christians?
3. What are some examples of persecution that we face as Christians in the United States? How might our perspective of persecution be different than that of other believers around the world?
4. What does it look like for a believer to be poor in the eyes of the world but rich in the eyes of Christ? What does it look like for a church? How does our richness in either case impact our ability to reach people with the gospel?
5. Review Jesus’ commands to the church in Smyrna (v. 10). How do Jesus’ commands fit the problem He exposed in this church?
6. What happens when we are more concerned about helping people delay the first death than we are about helping people avoid the second death?
7. What are some key things we can learn about the church of Smyrna that apply to our individual walks with the Lord and our church as a whole.