

Main Scripture: Revelation 2:8-11

8 “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: ‘The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life.

9 “‘I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. 10 Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. 11 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.’

Scripture References:

Ephesians 1:3 - All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ.

Matthew 6:19-20, 24 – “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal... 24 “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

Romans 2:28-29 – For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. 29 But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.

John 16:33 – “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

Romans 5:2-3 (MSG) – We continue to shout our praise even when we’re hemmed in with troubles, because we know how troubles can develop passionate patience in us, and how that patience in turn forges the tempered steel of virtue, keeping us alert for whatever God will do next.

James 5:2 (MSG) – Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors.

1 Peter 4:12 – Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

1 Peter 4:16 – Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

East Glenville Church – Sermon Notes Handout – August 3rd 2025
Seven Messages #3 – Revelation 2:8-11 – Smyrna: Testing

Question: *When has your faith in Christ been put to the test?*

Revelation 2:8-11 The Church in Smyrna is facing hardship and is being put to the test.

Smyrna had on its coins: “First of _____ in beauty and size”

Smyrna was the first to build a temple to the goddess _____ as well as _____ Caesar.

2:8 Christ is the _____ and the Last! *Why is that important for this church?*

2:9 The believers endure tribulation and face _____, yet Christ says they are _____.

John 16:33 – Jesus told his disciples they could have His peace amidst _____.

What do we know about the opposition Christians in Smyrna faced?

2:10 Five Trials: Suffering, _____, _____, _____ and possibly _____.

The goal is the devil is that they would...

But God will use this testing to...

2:11 *What truths from this verse would help believers to endure through this testing?*

What is the difference between facing temptation and the testing of our faith?

If you are following Christ, you will at some point face _____ that will test your faith.

Hardships and Trials can actually _____ our Faith in Christ

Trials can give us _____ that our Love for God is Real

Trials Reveal that we _____ to Christ rather than the world

Trials give us the opportunity to _____ the Name of Jesus

Application: *How can you be ready to face the testing of your faith in Christ?*