



Today's Message

Date: November 3, 2013
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: *Free From The Second Death*

Text: Revelation 2:8–11 (ESV)

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.’

Introduction: Chapters two and three contain seven letters from Christ to churches in western Turkey. The letters all follow a similar format. Christ evaluates each church, identifying its strengths and weaknesses. Next he offers counsel to help the church persevere. He concludes each with a promise. This letter contains a variation in the pattern. Christ's evaluation simply consists of a declaration of sympathy for this persecuted church: “I know”

Today's take-home truth: Those who persevere are faithful regardless of the cost because the risen Christ guarantees them eternal life.

- I. **Description of the Author: In times of trouble churches find solace in the glorified Christ. 8**

A. He exercises sovereignty over every circumstance.

B. He has already conquered our worst enemy.

II. Evaluation of the church: He knows all about every trial the church faces. 9

A. He knew the crushing burdens the church bore.

B. He knew the extreme poverty the church endured.

C. He knew the vicious injustice the church suffered.

III. Counsel to the church: Let the devil do his worst—he cannot diminish the glory that awaits you. 10

A. Set aside fear though the worst might still lie ahead.

B. Then stand faithfully,

1. even if faithfulness brings death,

2. remembering that Christ has promised real life to the faithful.

IV. Promise to the church: The world might condemn you, but God will never condemn the faithful. 11