



Revelation 2:8-11(NIV)

May 14, 2023

⁸ “To the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. ⁹ I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰ Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of

you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown.

¹¹ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death.

Introduction

Three aspects of this church:

a. afflictions

b. poverty

- *penes* - working for daily wage
- *ptochos* - destitute

c. social discrimination

“Do not be conformed to the world . . .” Romans 12:2

1. The greater danger lies in what we accept and embrace rather than what we oppose.

2. The greater temptation comes from our strengths rather than our weaknesses.

3. The greater challenge lies in developing our deep inner life rather than our public image.

a. public life

b. private life

c. deep inner life

“Do not be conformed to the world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” Romans 12:2