

Group/Individual Study

Series - Dear Church: Letter to the church of Ephesus

REFLECT on the message heard on Sunday, 10/14

1. Are you at a place in your life right now where you relate to Christ's words to this suffering church? Why?
2. Smyrna is one of the only churches in the Book of Revelation that has had an uninterrupted Christian presence for nearly 2,000 years since the book was written. This is intriguing, because in many ways, when Revelation was written, the future of this church seemed to be the most uncertain of them all. How does this encourage you?
3. What is it about Christ's description of himself here --- that he is the First and the Last, that he died and came to life, that he knows our tribulation --- that is encouraging to you?
4. Jesus does not say the Christians here will not suffer. In fact, he assures them that they will. But he says that he will be with them, will reward them, and that their suffering will have an end ("you will be tested...for ten days") How is this a better encouragement than simply telling people that bright days are ahead?
5. Has your Christianity ever cost you anything --- a job, an opportunity, a relationship, a business account? What happened? How did you see God bless despite this?
6. What are you afraid of right now? How do these words encourage you?
7. How would you summarize these words of Christ?