

Dear Church

Revelation 2:8 - 11

*When Life is Hard Focus on the Truth.*

*First, almost any church – even a contemporary congregation – has more in common with one of these historic congregations than with the others. ... Even within each local church one can find these same problems and virtues. For example, some Christians are Ephesian Christians ... while others are Philadelphian Christians ... and so forth. ~Paige Patterson Revelation, Page 75.*

• 2 Timothy 3:12, James 1:2-3

1. Dear church, when life is hard remember I

\_\_\_\_\_ death.

• Acts 2:24 ESV

*The One who speaks to the angel of the church at Smyrna is the One who precedes all creation and will remain when all else is gone. ~Paige Patterson Revelation, Page 94.*

2. Dear church, when life is hard remember I

\_\_\_\_\_ you.

A. I know everything about you. Psalm 139:1-4

➤ Nothing I do will make God love me anymore; Nothing I do will make God love me any less.

B. I know your works.

3. Dear church, when life is hard remember I know

your \_\_\_\_\_.

A. I know your tribulation.



B. I know your poverty.

C. I know the slander against you.

4. Dear church, when life is hard do not \_\_\_\_\_.

A. Do not fear what you are about to suffer.

B. Do not fear Death.

C. Do not fear I conquered death.

*Jesus Christ ... endured the most unjust and severe persecution [and death] anyone ever suffered ... so He can serve as a compassionate and understanding source of power ... He is the One who addressed this letter of comfort and encouragement to the church at Smyrna. ~John MacArthur Revelation 1–11, Page 69*

5. Dear church, when life is hard be \_\_\_\_\_.

A. You will receive a crown of life. James 1:12

*Hypocrites do not stay to face persecution, because false believers do not want to endure the pain. Trials and persecution strengthen and refine genuine saving faith, but uncover and destroy false faith. ~John MacArthur Revelation 1–11, Page 68*

B. You will not suffer the second death. Revelation 20:14-15, Matthew 10:28

*The first death is defined as the separation of the soul from the body, whereas the second death is the separation of the soul from God and its confinement in the place the Bible ... [calls] hell. ~Paige Patterson Revelation, Page 99.*

He who has an ear, let him hear  
what the Spirit says to the churches

What did I hear this morning?

What am I going to do, hear or hear and obey?

