

“What Does Jesus Want to Say to Our Church? Smyrna: The Persecuted Church”

Sunday, October 19, 2025, 10:30 a.m.

Whitneyville Bible Church, Alto, MI

Pastor Jonathan DeCou

Revelation 2:8-11

BIG IDEA: Faith is the victory that overcomes the world.

*“I know your affliction and poverty, but you are rich...
Don’t be afraid of what you are about to suffer.”
Revelation 2:9a, 10a (CSB)*

The Commission. (v8a)

The Character. (v8b)

- Jesus Christ is the First of the Last.
- Jesus Christ died and came back to life.

The Commendation. (v9)

- They were persecuted.
- They were poverty-stricken.
- They were disparaged.

The Condemnation.

- NONE!

The Command. (v10)

- Be fearless.
- Be faithful.

The Call. (v11a)

- A letter to one church.
- A message for all.

The Challenge. (v11b)

- Be a faithful Overcomer.
- Persevere and live forever.

BIG IDEA: Faith is the victory that overcomes the world.

Read: Revelation 2:8-11

Think: Think about Jesus’ message to this church, and then ask yourself the following questions: *If you were rich, what would you like to do? What problems is the church at Smyrna facing? How can they be both poor and rich? Why is Jesus known to them as “the First and the Last”? What does this letter teach us about the nature of spiritual affliction and suffering? How do we come to live fearlessly? How do we become more faithful? Explain what it means to you to not be harmed by the 2nd death.*

Do: Has it been harder to live out your faith when you’ve been poor, or when you’ve had enough money to spare? Why? In what ways do you feel spiritually rich? How can you support persecuted brothers and sisters around the world?