

Faithful unto Death: Rich in Christ

October 19, 2025 | Revelation 2:8-11



Observation: What is happening here?

- **v. 8:** Christ speaks to the struggling, suffering church in Smyrna. He identifies himself by showing his authority over time, life, and death.
- **v. 9:** Jesus acknowledges their "**tribulation and poverty** (but you are **rich**).\" This church is outwardly struggling, yet inwardly **rich in Christ**. The church has been facing opposition from the **synagogue of Satan**.
 - This language appears only twice in Scripture (*Revelation 2:9-11* - Smyrna and *Revelation 3:7-13* - Philadelphia).
 - These were people aligned with the Devil, the Adversary, the Accuser.
- **v. 10:** Christ encourages the church not to be afraid, as there will be a limit to the tribulation. *"Do not fear what you are about to suffer... the devil will throw some of you into prison... **for ten days** you will have tribulation."* The **ten days** show a limit (like Daniel 1:8-21) of this tribulation.
- **vv. 10-11:** Christ speaks of being faithful unto death and giving the crown of life and not facing the second death. This is the call to remain true to Christ, receiving salvation and blessings from him. This is much like the *Parable of the Tower and the Warring King* (Luke 14:28-33); the reward is worth it.
- **Scriptures:** *Revelation 2:8-11; James 1:12; 1 Peter 1:6-7; Daniel 3:16-18.*

Ontario Community Church: Encouraging, Equipping and Engaging lives for Christ.
John 6:47 (ESV) *"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life."*

Interpretation: What can we learn?

Christ is with us in our trials and tribulations

- Jesus is the First and the Last, the Alpha and the Omega. He died and rose again, showing His rule over time, life, and death.
- When believers face trials or tribulations, we are rich in Him. Our struggles are not wasted; in Christ, they are seen, held, and loved.
- **Scriptures:** *Revelation 2:8-9; 2 Corinthians 6:10; 2 Corinthians 8:2, 9; James 2:5; John 10:27-28; Revelation 12:9-10.*

The Devil's tactics, Christ's victory

- The "*synagogue of Satan*" and the Devil remind us of spiritual warfare (**tactics**). Let us be reminded that the **victory is in Christ**.
- "*Ten days*" signals a short time frame (as in Daniel 1:8-21 is a parallel).
- **Scriptures:** *Revelation 2:10; Daniel 1:12-15; 1 Peter 1:6-7.*

Faithful until the end, crowned with life

- Even if faith costs our lives, our lives and security in Christ remain.
- The crown of life symbolizes Christ's victory. The battle is already won in Him. Christ wore a crown of thorns so we could have a crown of life.
- The second death will not hurt us. Nothing can separate us from Christ.
- **Scriptures:** *Revelation 2:10-11; James 1:12; Revelation 20:14; 21:8.*

Application: How should we live?

Secure yourself by trusting in the Lord

- Place your faith/belief in Christ, who rules over time, life, and death.
- Count the cost: (like the tower builder and warring king) consider and choose Him. Salvation is worth everything (Luke 14:28-33).
- **Scriptures:** *Revelation 2:8-10; Luke 14:28-33; Acts 20:24.*

Stand firm in the battle, grow in Christ's strength

- Recognize the spiritual war. Don't be surprised by the pressures of life. Set your heart on Christ. He will protect and provide for you.
- Put on the armor of God. Grow in holiness and bear fruit in Him.
- **Scriptures:** *Revelation 2:10; Ephesians 6:10-18; 1 Peter 1:6-7.*

Endure to the end, live for eternal riches

- Remain in Christ's love and the truth of His Word. Persevere (stand firm) even when the world opposes you.
- Share the gospel, be an ambassador of Christ, live and love like Christ.
- **Scriptures:** *Revelation 2:9-11; James 1:12; Romans 12:14-21.*

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