SERVING THROUGH THE PAIN

Revelation 2:8-11 February 24, 2019

Jesus calls you to keep serving Him even when it hurts by understanding the 5 facts about pain and suffering:

1. SOCIETY WILL HINDER YOU!

"And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: 'The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life.." Rev. 2:8

...As secular <u>SOCIETY</u> becomes more tolerant, it will become less <u>TOLERANT</u> of <u>CHRISTIANS</u> .

2. THE SAVIOR WILL HELP YOU!

"And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: 'The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life.."" Rev. 2:8

...No matter what you <u>FACE</u>, Jesus has not only <u>FACED</u> it, but He has <u>CONQUERED</u> it.

3. SUFFERING WILL HURT YOU!

"I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan." Rev. 2:9

- ...There are 3 ways that you will <u>SUFFER</u> as a Christian:
- a. You will face PRESSURE! (tribulation)
- ...The <u>CULTURE</u> will say, "<u>BECOME</u> like me!"
- b. You will face POVERTY (poverty)
- ...The culture will say, "Don't let your FAITH COST you!"
- c. You will face PERSECUTION ! (vs. 9c)
- ...The culture will say, "Keep our <u>RULES</u> because <u>RELIGION</u> is alright!"

4. SERVICE WILL HUMBLE YOU!

"Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life." Rev. 2:10

There are 3 perspectives on suffering:
 A. MAN'S perspective suffering is a MISERY ! (vs. 10a) B. SATAN'S perspective suffering is a MYSTERY ! (vs. 10b) C. GOD'S perspective suffering is a MINISTRY ! (vs. 10c) God allows you to SERVE Him through your SUFFERING to make you better.
5. <u>SURRENDER</u> will heal you!
"and I will give you the crown of life. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death." Rev. 2:10d-11)
When you stay <u>SURRENDERED</u> to God and His will through your suffering, God will heal your <u>PAIN</u> and <u>BLESS</u> you by allowing you to <u>LIVE</u> in His presence <u>FOREVER</u> .
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