



# Adult and Teen Life Groups Conferencing Guide

SERMON DATE: 09/09/2018  
DISCUSSION DATE: 09/23/2018  
TEXT: REVELATION 2:8-11

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## I. THE SUFFERING CHURCH - MATERIALLY POOR BUT SPIRITUALLY RICH.

*A. The Recipients of the Letter, v. 8a.*

*B. The Description of the Speaker, v. 8b.*

1. The First and the Last.
2. Who was dead **and** came to LIFE

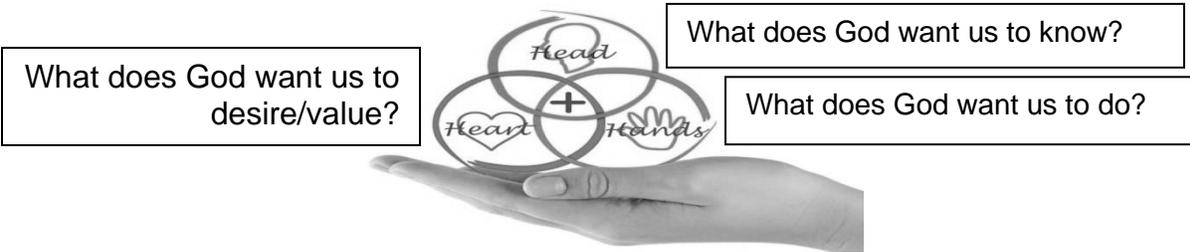
*C. The Lord's Council to His Suffering Children, v.v. 9-10.*

3. Jesus calls on us to remember who He is and who He has made us to be.
4. Jesus commands us not to fear suffering at the hands of men while living for Him.
5. Jesus assures us that the trials of life are temporary while reminding us that our response to them reveals the condition of our faith.
6. Jesus wants His children to TRUST HIM - the One who gave His life to save us from sin will keep us from falling.

*D. There is no condemnation of this church!*

*E. The Motivation to follow Jesus's instructions – A PROMISE of PROTECTION, v. 11.*

## ASK GOD FOR WISDOM TO APPLY HIS WORD IN OUR DAILY LIVES



1. Polycarp's testimony as he faced death or denial of Jesus: "Eighty and six years have I served him, and he has not done me any harm. How then could I blaspheme my King who saved me?" In what ways are we being pressured to compromise the Gospel for the sake of public approval? How do we avoid the pull?
2. **Read Revelation 2:8; 22:12-13; Isaiah 44:6.** What is Jesus emphasizing about Himself by declaring that He is "the FIRST and the LAST?"
3. **Read Hebrews 4:12-13; 10:30-31.** How do these texts help us fight against compromising the gospel for the sake of people's approval? How can we discern what is going on in our hearts?
4. **Read Revelation 2:8.** Why do we need to remind ourselves continually that Jesus died? How does that help us face temptations to compromise? Why do we need to remind ourselves continually that Jesus came to life?
5. **Read Revelation 2:9-10.** What do we need to remember about Jesus? How does this help us stand for Him? How can a person be physically poor but spiritually rich? Why do we need to be reminded of our spiritual riches in Christ Jesus?
6. What is the devil trying to destroy through persecution? What does he believe about us? Why is it important and encouraging to know that our trials are only temporary? What do trials reveal about our faith (**cf. James 1**)?
7. Who will be "faithful unto death?" What is the promised reward for all who continue to live by faith?  
**Read Acts 20:24** – What is the race we have been given to run? What is the ministry we have been entrusted to finish?
8. What is significant about Smyrna not having anything to condemn in this letter? What kind of suffering are we liable to face in our culture? How do we get our eyes off the suffering and back on to Jesus?
9. Why refer to true believers are "overcomers?"
10. **Read Revelation 20:14; 21:8.** What is the second death? Who will take part in it and who will escape it?