

SERMON OUTLINE
“Letters from Jesus” – Week 1:
The Suffering Church
Revelation 2:8-11

I. Poverty-poor by the world’s standards, _____ in _____

Matthew 6:20

But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

II. Slander-_____ about you are all that matter

Matthew 5:11-12

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

III. Fear-God _____ all of the important things

Isaiah 41:10

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

IV. Testing-trials bring a _____

James 1:2-4

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

V. Second death-this is not something _____

Revelation 2:11b

The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death.

VI. It was Jesus who _____

Romans 5:8

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Next Steps:

1. Don’t let the worldly criticism of your faith affect you.
2. Remember that testing brings about a maturity in your faith.
3. Take comfort in the fact that you have overcome the world. I John 5:4-5