The Church of Suffering Saints

Revelation 2:8-11

Tribulation/Persecution/Testing (James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 4:12-19; Hebrews 12:1-11; 2 Timothy 3:12; Acts 8:3-4; 14:21-22)

I. Remember Christ’s power. (v. 8)

“Smyrna” (Acts 19:10)

“first and last” (Revelation 1:17)

“Which was dead and is alive” (Revelation 1:18; 1 Peter 3:18; Hebrews 7:16; Romans 6:9; Hebrews 2:14-15; John 11:25-26)

II. Remember Christ’s perception. (v. 9)

“poverty” (Luke 12:15-21)

“say they are Jews and are not” (Romans 2:28-29; Romans 9:6-8)

“synagogue of Satan” (John 8:44)

“I know” (Hebrews 12:2-3; 2:18; 4:15-16)

III. Remember Christ’s promise. (v. 10-11)

“fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer” (John 16:33; Psalm 56:3,11)

“the devil” (Revelation 12:10; Job 2:1-6)

“tried” (Job 1:22; 2:10; 13:5; James 1:2-4,13-14; Hebrews 11:17,37; 1 Peter 1:6-7)

“crown of life” (James 1:12)

5 crowns mentioned in Scripture:

Crown of Rejoicing (Exultation) – 1 Thessalonians 2:19 – for those who win others to Christ

Crown of Righteousness – 2 Timothy 4:8 – for those who live with expectation of Christ’s coming

Crown of Life – James 1:12; Revelation 2:10 – for those who endure persecution

Imperishable Crown – 1 Corinthians 9:25 – for those who run the race of life with self-control

Crown of Glory – 1 Peter 5:4 – for those who lead the church with humility

“He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death” (Revelation 20:14-15; 1 Corinthians 15:22; Hebrews 9:27; Matthew 10:28; John 10:27-29; John 6:39; Romans 8:35-39)