

The Church: To “Tweak” or to “Over-Haul”

MONDAY

Weekly Devo

(For the Week of June 9 , 2019)

Reading: Revelation 1:18; 2:8-11; Matthew 16:18; Hebrews 2:14-15.

Questioning the Text:

1. After reading **Rev. 2:8-11**, why do you think said what He did in **v. 8b** (see **1:18**)?
2. “Hades” was the unseen realm of the dead. Why is Jesus having the keys important?
3. Why was it important for Jesus to “*partake of flesh and blood*”?
4. Since people still experience “*death*,” why then does **Heb. 2:14-15** say that Jesus “*rendered powerless him who had the power of death*”?

Applying the Text:

1. When someone is experiencing a trauma (e.g. death, persecution, etc.), who would be the best person to help them? If that isn’t you, then what *can* you do for them?
2. If you had nothing to fear (i.e., no consequences for your words or actions), what would you then do for Jesus/church? What “consequence” keeps you from doing this now?!
3. Jesus did not come to live, He came to die, (cf. **Matt. 20:28**). Yet in so doing He came so we might have an “*abundant life*,” (cf. **John 10:10**)? How would you respond to the idea that if we are *not* living an abundant life to glorify Him, then for us His death is meaningless?
4. If we are “*subject*” to our fears, then what “*fear*” rules over/owns you?

Prayer: Father, Satan wants to keep me afraid and silent. Help me understand the worst he can do to me is to kill me, which will only bring me to You sooner . . .



To the Angel of the Church in Smyrna...

In order to help our Sunday Sermons “stick,”
here are lessons to go over together for better “adhesion.”
(Wednesday & Saturday are omitted for class and Family time respectively)

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TUESDAY

Reading: Revelation 2:9; Acts 20:29-31; 1 John 4:1, 6

Questioning the Text:

1. Jesus says to each congregation, “*I know...*,” (2:2, 9, 19, etc.). What are some reasons why this should encourage them individually and congregationally?
2. Using a concordance, what are some things God tells us about “*tribulations*”?
3. What would be some of our “*treasures*” that we are to “*lay up in heaven*”?
4. Which should we understand; “*poverty/rich*” are both understood “physically,” or spiritually,” or both, or neither? How did you reach this conclusion?

Applying the Text:

1. When Jesus speaks about their “*poverty/riches*,” what should this say to us about what should be the focus in our lives?
2. Why were they facing “*tribulations*”? Was it for a good reason or a bad reason?
3. How do you believe you would react to physical and/or financial tribulations?
4. Do you think facing “tribulations” builds our faith or breaks our faith? Why?!

Prayer: Father, understanding that You know my situation comforts me. I don’t feel so all alone. Therefore, help me to always be comforted by Your all abiding presence...

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THURSDAY

Reading: Revelation 2:9; 3:9; 21:8; Matthew 12:24, 31; 1 Peter 4:16; Matthew 10:32-33

Questioning the Text:

1. Look up the meaning of the word *blasphemy*. How can “*say[ing] they are Jews and are not*” be considered “*blasphemy*”?
2. In what sense is the word “*synagogue*” being used by Jesus for these blasphemers?
3. In what areas of life are Christians allowed to be “*cowardly*” in regards to their faith?
4. Why do you think the punishment for these individuals to severe?
5. How alike and different is what these Christians at Smyrna are doing with what Peter did in the Sanhedrin’s courtyard?

Applying the Text:

1. What are some areas of Christian responsibility you avoid doing for fear of bringing unwanted attention (“tribulation/persecution”?) onto yourself?
2. How have you “*suffered as a Christian*”? What lessons did you learn from this?
3. Does “*confess Me before men*” only mean quoting Romans 10:9/Acts 8:37 before our baptism, or does it mean more than this? If more, what more does it mean?
4. What can Meadows be doing to help all of us avoid becoming a “*synagogue of Satan*”?

Prayer: Father, fear causes me to do things I shouldn’t and to not do as I should. I need your strength, Father, to not allow my fears to gain the victory over me . . .

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FRIDAY

Reading: Revelation 2:10-11; John 16:33; Hebrews 12:1-2; 1 John 5:4; Matthew 10:28

Questioning the Text:

1. How is the “*tribulation*” of verse 9 and of verse 10 alike/different?
2. Time references in Revelation (e.g. “*days*,” “*years*,” etc.) are not literal (ex.: “*10 days*” 2:10; “*1,000 years*” 20:2). Yet the “*testing*” (2:10) is literal. What sorts of things do you think would be included in this type of testing?
3. In Jn. 16:33, Jesus said, “*I have overcome the world*,” then in 1 Jn. 5:4, John says, “...*the victory that has overcome the world is our faith*.” So which is it, Jesus or our faith?
4. What is “*the crown of life*”?

Applying the Text:

1. What are some strategies people employ to calm themselves when they are afraid? What strategies should Christians employ? How would you do this?
2. How would living as though they truly believed what Jesus said in Matthew 10:28 change a person’s life? How will you let this verse change yours?
3. In what ways have the Devos this week on Revelation 2:8-11 changed you?

Prayer: Father, I believe if my faith was stronger, I wouldn’t have all these problems.
So hear me also, as the man said so long ago, “*I do believe; help my unbelief*,””