

## CPR: Christ's Promises in Revelation Smyrna: The Persecuted Church

October 25-26, 2014 / Jeff Gunn

<sup>1</sup> *Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain?*

<sup>2</sup> *The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed, saying,*

<sup>3</sup> *“Let us break their chains and throw off their shackles.”*

**Psalm 2:1-3, NIV**

<sup>13</sup> *Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. 1 John 3:13, NIV*

**Why are there so many \_\_\_\_\_ of Christianity?**

<sup>8</sup> *“To the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. Revelation 2:8, NIV*

<sup>4</sup> *You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 1 John 4:4, NIV*

**To overcome persecution, be confident! Remember \_\_\_\_\_ is with us, and in us—\_\_\_\_\_!**

<sup>9</sup> *I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Revelation 2:9, NIV*

*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. 2 Corinthians 8:9, NIV*

**Be confident! Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ our pain, our poverty, and our great wealth.**

<sup>10</sup> *Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Revelation 2:10a, NIV*

*...the One who was born of God keeps them safe, and the evil one cannot harm them. 1 John 5:18b, NIV*

**Be confident! Our true \_\_\_\_\_ has his limits.**

*Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown. Revelation 2:10b, NIV*

*So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good. 1 Peter 4:19, NIV*

**To overcome persecution, be \_\_\_\_\_.**

<sup>11</sup> *Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. Revelation 2:11a, NIV*

*I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one. 1 John 2:14c, NIV*

**To overcome persecution, \_\_\_\_\_ to the Spirit.**

*The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death. Revelation 2:11b, NIV*

<sup>21</sup> *For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. Philippians 1:21, NIV*

**Be confident! Even if the persecution is \_\_\_\_\_ (even if it ends in death!) it cannot truly \_\_\_\_\_ us at all!**

### MEMORY VERSE

*Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown. Revelation 2:10b, NIV*

**Bottom line:** Perseverance with Jesus trumps popularity with the world. To overcome Satan's persecution, we only need to possess “Christ-confidence.”

**What's your next step today?**

**Mark it on your Communication Card.**