

**Main Truth – Jesus knows His people, their trials, and calls them to faithful perseverance.**

1. Jesus counsels the seven churches – Rev 2-3

Principle - Jesus knows, loves His Church and refines her through spiritual battle.

Applications - What spiritual battle is Jesus using today to mold your thoughts, attitudes and character? How can you pray for our pastors and church to be faithful in suffering?

2. Jesus commends and warns Ephesus Rev 2:1-7

Principle - Jesus calls His Church to teach truth and walk in love.

Applications - What's competing for the love that you owe Jesus? How do your thoughts, prayers, or words show love for Jesus?

3. Jesus commends & reassures Smyrna Rev 2:8-11

Principle - Faith that perseveres through suffering reveals Jesus to a lost world.

Applications - What present circumstance is your opportunity to reveal Christ to a fallen world? How can you refocus your eyes on the Crown of Life during trials?

Here are some optional questions and reading to consider.

Read the text - Revelation 2:1-11, noting key/repeat words and phrases.

1. What commendations were given to the Church at Ephesus? For what sin did they receive rebuke?
2. How do you discern false teaching? Read 2 Peter 2:1-3 and Acts 17:11-12.
3. In what challenging situation did the Church at Smyrna find themselves? What was Jesus' promise to this church?
4. When have you endured persecution or mockery? How did the Holy Spirit help you persevere?
5. Which qualities of either church do you presently display, and which will you pray to develop?