

Common Ground Café

Sermon Discussion Guide

Sunday, October 20, 2019



Keep Your Eyes on the One
Who Loves You

Revelation 2:8-11

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Get to Know You

Have you ever had a circumstance in which you were uncomfortable because you were a believer?

Study the Book

Read Revelation 2:8-11

The political climate for the believers in Smyrna is significant in understanding this passage. Review the important aspects of what the believers were experiencing when they would have received this letter. (Keywords: shrine, certificate, emperor)

Are you ready to face hard times because of your faith?

How does verse nine describe the believers in Smyrna suffering?

To whom is John referring as “those who say they are Jews and are not?” Why would he refer to them in this way?

What difficulty were those who said they were Jews causing the Jewish believers in Smyrna?

What are some examples of Christians facing persecution around the world?

When your time comes, will you focus on the one who loves you?

The one who loves you knows what you are experiencing.

Jesus knows not only about your suffering intellectually but knows what it is like to suffer because He experienced suffering.

How does talking to someone with similar experiences in suffering give us comfort?

The one who loves you knows what you will experience.

What reassurance in suffering can we find in verse ten?

Jesus is both our Lord and our Brother.

Read Revelation 2:8

What does it mean that Jesus is the First and the Last?

What does it mean that Jesus is the one who was dead and came to life?

How can these be reconciled? (Trick Question)

Jesus is telling you, "Keep your eyes on me. When you suffer for your faith, when you suffer in spite of your faith, keep your eyes on me."

Group Application Discussion

What are some practical steps we can take to focus on Jesus during times of suffering?

What are some ways we become distracted during suffering that keep us from focusing on Jesus?

Personal Reflection and Application

Who around you is suffering? Pray that they would focus on Jesus this week.