



Keep Your Eyes on the One Who Loves You

Revelation 2:8-11 (CSB)

“Write to the angel of the church in Smyrna: Thus says the First and the Last, the one who was dead and came to life: ⁹I know your affliction and poverty, but you are rich. I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰Don't be afraid of what you are about to suffer. Look, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison to test you, and you will experience affliction for ten days. Be faithful to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life. ¹¹Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will never be harmed by the second death.”

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

Verse 9: “I know your affliction and poverty, but you are rich. I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.”

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

What is it about Jesus that we are to focus on when we face hard times? Three things.

First, the one who loves you knows what you _____ experiencing.

Verse 9: “*I know your affliction and poverty...I know the slander...*”

“I know intellectually”

“I know experientially”

Second, the one who loves you knows what you _____ experience.

Verse 10: “Don't be afraid of what you are about to suffer. Look, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison to test you, and you will experience affliction for ten days.”

Third, Jesus is both our Lord and our Brother.

Our Lord. “Thus says the First and the Last ...” (verse 8)

Our Brother. “...the one who was dead and came to life.” (verse 8)