

Pastor Ron Case  
7/13/14

## **“The Letters Jesus Sent” (2)**

*“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.” (Romans 8:18)*

### **Jesus – The Eternal One**

**Revelation 2:8** – (8) “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: ‘The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life.’”

### **God’s Perspective**

**Revelation 2:9** – (9) “I know your tribulation (*pressure*) and your poverty (**but you are rich**) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, **but are a synagogue of Satan.**”

### **The True Prosperity Gospel**

**Revelation 2:10** – (10) “**Do not fear what you are about to suffer.** Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. **Be faithful unto death,** and I will give you the crown of life.”

### **Spared from True Suffering**

**Revelation 2:11** – (11) “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.**”

**Key Point: Suffering Goads Us back to the Eternal View**

## **Recasting Suffering**

“So we do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4:16-18)

“Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.” (1 Peter 4:1-2)

## **Questions:**

What impacted me the most in this message?

Does much of this life seem like a struggle? (Job 14:1; Rom. 8:22-23)

What characterized Jesus’ earthly service? (Is. 53:1-11; Heb. 12:3)

What followed His suffering? (Is. 53:12; Luke 24:26; Heb. 12:2)

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)