

Ten-Day Forecast
Revelation 2:8-11

The text today tells of a 10-day forecast given to the church of Smyrna. The predictions and instructions given to each church in Rev. 2 & 3 are intended to inform and guide _____.

These verses warn believers about the _____ difficulties that are _____ to come when following Christ. Here is what Christians can expect: “Affliction,” “poverty,” “slander,” “they are about to suffer,” “prison,” “testing,” persecution,” death.”

Most believers have been influenced by some _____ gospel teaching along with our natural human _____ and conclude that if you have God on your side, you get to _____ tribulation, illness, poverty, and suffering. We think, “Surely God rewards the faithful and punishes evil in this life. Poverty, slander, prison-these are the price of _____, not faithfulness.”

There is good news. There is an _____ on our time of struggle: “10 days.” This number recalls Dan. 1:12 where Daniel is tested for 10 days and is proven _____. Suffering for 10 days symbolizes any period a believer must endure the hardships of the world which, when they come to an end whether by _____ or physical _____, the believer’s faith in Christ will be proven right.

3 references in the text foreshadow the time when our faith will be proven right. 1st, Jesus is called “the First and the Last.” Jesus who created and will conclude this universe has never _____, even if it feels like you have. 2nd, He is the one “who died and came to life again.” They killed Jesus and He came to life again. God decides our _____, not the world. 3rd, Jesus says, “I know your afflictions and your poverty-- yet you are rich!” What Jesus says about you, not what is happening to you, is what is _____ about you.

Only our _____ appraisal matters. _____ is the final appraiser. He says, “You are _____.” Rich because you know Jesus, because you trust in the Alpha and Omega, the one who died and came back to life. Rich because you have abundant and eternal life _____.