

What Jesus wants for his church - perseverance

Revelation 2:8-11

Slides from John Percival's sermon at the
morning service, Sunday 25th February 2024





“The story of it coming from religious belief could put the brand in an exclusionary space, especially if it was to go viral on X or TikTok.”

Helen Edwards (London Business School)

Seven Churches of Revelation

— Chapters 2-3 —

- ① Ephesus
- ② Smyrna
- ③ Pergamos
- ④ Thyatira
- ⑤ Sardis
- ⑥ Philadelphia
- ⑦ Laodicea

Island of Patmos: where John received the vision



1. The cost of discipleship

John 15v20

If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.

1. The cost of discipleship

- In the present (v9)

1 Peter 5v8

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

1. The cost of discipleship

- In the present (v9)
- In the future (v10)

Revelation 2v10

Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown.

www.barnabasaid.org



www.opendoorsuk.org



Philippians 1v29

For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him,

Philippians 1v29

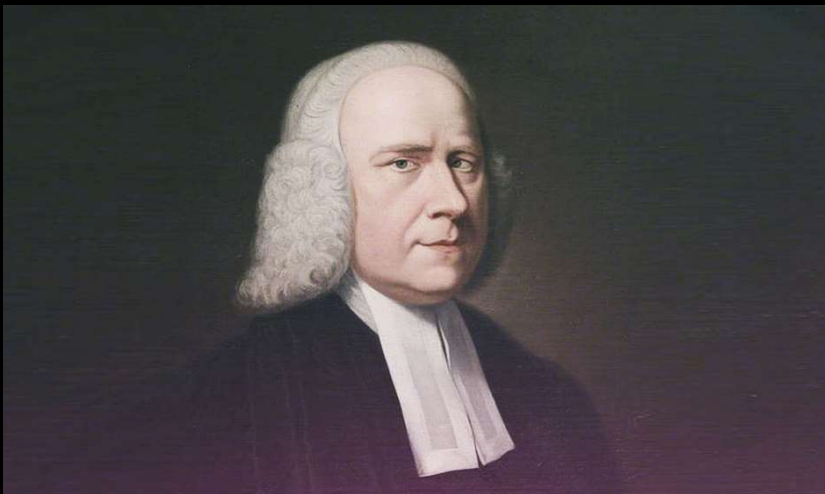
For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him,

2 Timothy 3v12

everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

“I was honoured with having a few stones, dirt, rotten eggs, and pieces of dead cats thrown at me.”

George Whitefield (1714-1770)



2. The certainties of discipleship

- Jesus' presence (v9)
- Jesus' sovereignty (v8, 10)
- Jesus' purpose (v10)

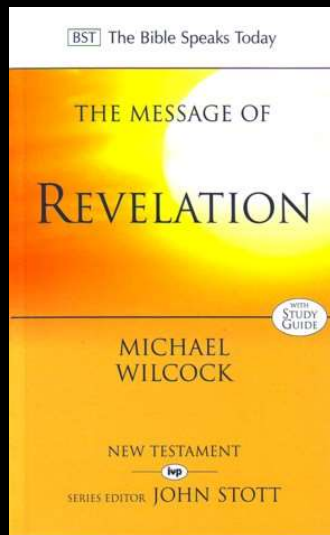
James 1v2-4

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

2. The certainties of discipleship

- Jesus' presence (v9)
- Jesus' sovereignty (v8, 10)
- Jesus' purpose (v10)
- Jesus' promise (v10-11)

“Let every Christian take heart. For the Christ who unveils this dismaying prospect is one who has himself been through a Smyrna-like experience. Like their city, their Lord also died and came to life, and guarantees resurrection for them too.”



Michael Wilcock

“For 86 years I have been his servant and he has done me no wrong. How then can I blaspheme the king who saved me?”

Polycarp of Smyrna