

INTRODUCTION

- * The Book of Revelation – the Revelation of Jesus Christ ...
- * Our outline: The Things That Have Been (Message To John) The Things That Are (Message To the Churches) ... The Things That Will Be (Message of the Future)
- * Last week we began looking at “The Things That Are” ... Christ’s Message to the Churches ... specifically, His message to the church of Ephesus

INSTRUCTION ... Let's consider now Christ's message to the Church of Smyrna**I. THE LETTER TO THE CHURCH OF EPHEBUS (2: 1-7)****II. THE LETTER TO THE CHURCH OF SMYRNA (2: 8-11)****A. Christ's Introduction:****B. Christ's Commendation:**

1. I KNOW THE _____ OF YOUR _____
2. I KNOW THE _____ OF _____

C. Christ's Challenge:

1. THE I _____ Y OF THE TRIBULATION
2. THE I _____ T OF THE TRIBULATION – That you may be _____

AN EXCURSION ON TRIALS**I. THE DEFINITION OF TRIALS****A. Peirasmos:**

- * If you _____ – it was a _____ to you * If you _____ – it was a _____ to you

B. Dokimos:**II. THE SOURCE OF TRIALS****A. Satan ... but only in submission to the Sovereignty of God**

- * Consider Job (cf. Job 1-2) * Consider Peter (cf. Luke 22: 31-34)

B. Self ... being drawn away of our own lusts (James 1: 2-8, 12-15)**III. THE PURPOSE OF TRIALS****A. To Strengthen the P _____ of Your Faith (cf. Romans 5: 3-4; I Corinthians 10: 13)****B. To Prove the G _____ of Your Faith**

1. AS A TESTIMONY TO OTHERS – A WITNESS OF FAITH (cf. I Peter 1: 3-9; I Corinthians 11: 18-19, 28)
2. AS A TESTIMONY TO YOURSELF – ASSURANCE OF FAITH

* Hebrews 3: 12-14; 6: 4-8; II Corinthians 10: 18; 13: 3-8; II Timothy 2: 15

3. THE I _____ Y OF THE TRIBULATION (v. 10b)
 - a. The Length: 10 Days (cf. Gen 24:55; I Sam 25:38; Dan 1:12,14)
 - b. The Cost:
4. THE I _____ T OF THE TRIBULATION (v. 10c; James 1:12; I Corinthians 9: 24-27; II Timothy 4:8; I Peter 5: 2-4)

D. Christ's Promise ...**III. THE LETTER TO THE CHURCH OF PERGAMOS (2: 12-17)****IV. THE LETTER TO THE CHURCH OF THYRATIRA (2: 18-29)****V. THE LETTER TO THE CHURCH OF SARDIS (3: 1-6)****VI. THE LETTER TO THE CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA (3: 7-13)****VII. THE LETTER TO THE CHURCH OF LAODICEA (3: 14-22)****INTROSPECTION**

- ☞ Are you facing any trials and tribulations right now? Remember, it is the testing of your faith!
- ☞ Where is your focus? What, or Who, are you trusting in the midst of the trials?
- ☞ Be encouraged! There is purpose. Be faithful! Be a light!