

You've Got Mail - Smyrna

Scripture: Revelation 2: 8-11
Date: September 27, 2020

PRESSURE

TEACHING

While the perception that Smyrna was a successful commercial city there were elements that were pressuring on the Christian community there. The afflictions they suffered were an immense poverty due to their status as Christians. A status that was persecuted by other Jews in the city and was also persecuted by the governing Romans. The pressure upon them was a tribulation that weighed down on a person's mind, heart and body and was an unrelenting – never ending – suffocating pressure

REFLECTION

Where in your world do you feel critiqued or criticized for being a Christian?

Where in your world have other Christians critiqued or criticized your faith?

What temptations do you face to turn away from your faith?

PRIZE

TEACHING

Jesus affirms that He is aware of the slander being spoken by those around the Christians in Smyrna and that the Romans are persecuting them into jail and even death. But He reminds them that even if their life on this earth fails – their life in heaven will be prized with the crown of life. In John 17: 15 and John 14: 27 – Jesus reminds them and us – that He is with us in a broken and hurting world.

REFLECTION

What words of encouragement or affirmation would help you today?

What legacy would you like to see left on earth after you leave this temporal world?