Jesus Walks Among the Lampstands

Lesson #7 Jesus' Assessment of Smyrna Part B

The Complaint

The Correction

Revelation 2:10

"¹⁰ Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."

Two reasons to not be afraid.

Ten days?

Ten days is symbolic for <u>a brief period</u> <u>of time</u>. Daniel and his friends refused to eat the defiled Babylonian food and were tested for ten days. When the period was over, they emerged vindicated (Dan. 1:12-15), as those in Smyrna are expected to be.

The Consequence

"Point of death"

"Crown of Life"



John 12:25

"²⁵ He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal." "He who overcomes (literally conquers,' Greek in *Nikao*) will not be hurt by the second death."

Luke 12:46-48

"⁴⁶ The master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces, and assign him a place with the unbelievers. ⁴⁷ And that slave who knew his master's will and did not get ready or act in accord with his will, will receive many lashes, ⁴⁸ but the one who did not know it, and committed deeds worthy of a flogging, will receive but few. From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more."

Matthew 11:21-24

"²¹ Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. ²² Nevertheless I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you. ²³ And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You will descend to Hades; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day. ²⁴ Nevertheless I say to you that it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for you."

Devotion to God will always cost us something and perhaps a perceived early death.

No need to fear.

"The modern scientist has lost God amid the wonders of His world; we Christians are in real danger of losing God amid the wonders of His word. We have almost forgotten that God is a Person and, as such, can be cultivated as any person can."