

Fight or Flight?
Revelation 2:8-11
The Problem with Church, 3
Dr. Ted Wueste

Jesus understands our suffering.

verse 8

His sovereign character assures us that He holds all things together.

His death and resurrection provide hope in the midst of suffering.

We are constantly pressed between two realities.

verse 9

1. This earthly reality includes:
 - being pressed and squeezed by difficult circumstances.
 - experiencing poverty.
 - being misunderstood and persecuted.
2. The eternal reality is that we possess great wealth.

Fear in the midst of suffering leads us away from God's purposes for us.

verse 10a

Faithfulness in the midst of suffering happens as we trust that ...

verse 10b-11

- suffering develops our relationship with Jesus.
- suffering is a required path for those who follow Jesus.
- suffering is rewarded when we refuse to run.

APPLICATION

In your suffering, ask:

What am I afraid of?

What does God want to develop in me?

What is the greater reward?

Quotes:

"For 86 years, I have served Him and He never did me any harm. How then can I blaspheme my King who saved me?" Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna, AD 155

"If we endure suffering, we will also reign with Him. If we deny suffering, He will also deny us." 2 Tim. 2:12