

## "Lifestyle of the Rich and Faithful" Revelation 2:8-11

### Intro:

- \* Talk about the word, "lifestyle" and define it
- \* Illustration: "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous" (tv show)  
Ask, why was that show so popular?  
Because people wanted to get a glimpse into the lifestyle they wish they had  
Do we desire to get a glimpse of the lifestyle (of Smyrna) we need
- \* Talk about how the church in Smyrna is on the "big screen" and Jesus is watching  
He sees the church through His eyes and from His perspective  
Ask, what does He see?

**Transition:** He sees the lifestyle (of the entire church) of the rich and faithful:

### 1. Rich Despite the Poverty:

- A. Though they appeared to lack everything, they lacked nothing!  
They had everything they needed in Christ
- B. They could have compromised for their physical needs and did not!  
They did not live a comfortable life, but a conformed life

### 2. Faithful Despite the Afflictions and Slander:

- A. They could have given in and denied Christ because it was not worth it and did not!
  - A. Willing to continue to be poor
  - B. Willing to suffer more afflictions and slander
  - C. Willing to be imprisoned
  - D. Willing to be martyred

### 3. Because of Their Lifestyle, Jesus Has No Rebuke:

- A. Their lifestyle caused their poverty and affliction, but it was their lifestyle which caused them to keep their focus on the Lord to sustain them, which caused them no rebuke  
Their lifestyle kept them from needing rebuke

### 4. But He Does Have a Warning, Encouragement & Promise:

- A. Don't be afraid about what will happen to you! (warning)
- B. Keep on being faithful, even to the point of death! (warning)
- C. Do these and I will give you the "crown of life" because you will not be hurt by the 2nd death (promise to overcomer)
- D. Because I am the 1st and the last and have overcome death on your behalf  
(description of Jesus as it relates to their situation)  
They don't have to fear death because Jesus has overcome

### Conclusion:

- \* How are we doing? Are we living the lifestyle  
Are we willing to die if the need arises?
- \* Are we willing to die for Jesus?  
It is only then that we are willing to live for Him!
- \* The message: To the church (to the church) write to the churches (what the Spirit says church to the individual) to the church who overcomes

**Revelation 2:8-11**  
**Word Studies**

**2:8**

**Words:**

**First and Last:** Spoken of the Messiah in glory in the sense of the eternal, the beginning and the end

**Dead:** Meaning considered dead

**Came to Life Again:** To exist, in an absolute sense and without end

Aorist Indicative:

Active:

**2:9**

**Know:** To perceive, be aware of

Present Indicative:

Active:

**Afflictions:** Tribulation, not so much ill health, poverty or loss of friends, but the sacrifices they had to make and the perils they had to meet from their proclamation or profession of Christ *anything that burdens the spirit*

**Poverty:** Poverty, helplessness (incapable of providing for themselves), want

**Are:**

Present Indicative:

Active:

**Rich:** Figuratively, happy, prosperous, lacking nothing

**Slander:** Blasphemy, verbal abuse, speaking evil

**Jews:** Apostate unbelieving Jews, those who say they are Jews, but are not

**Synagogue:** Used to designate the fellowship of unbelieving Jews as a body

**2:10**

**Afraid:** Become fearful, afraid, terrified

Present Imperative:

Active:

**Are About:** Meaning ought, should, must, as implying necessity in accordance with the divine appointment and therefore certain, destined to take place

Present Indicative:

Active:

**Suffer:** To suffer, be subjected to evil

Present Indicative:

Active:

**I Tell You (Behold):** Serving to call attention to something external to oneself

**Devil:** The accuser, as if standing in a court of law

**Will:** Same as "are about" above

Present Indicative:

Active:

**Put:** To cast, throw

Aorist Indicative:

Active:

**Test:** In a bad sense will intent, to try one's virtue, tempt to sin

Aorist Subjunctive:

Passive:

**Will Suffer:**

Future Middle:

**Persecution:** Same as 2:9

**Be Faithful:** Faithful in duty to oneself and others

Present Imperative:

Active:

**Even to the Point of Death:** Spoken of a violent death as punishment

**Give:** Spoken of what is given as a reward or recompense for labor

Future:

**Crown of Life:** Figuratively as a symbol of the reward of eternal life

## 2:11

**Ear:** He who can hear and understand, let him attend

**Hear:** To understand, comprehend

Aorist Imperative:

Active:

**Overcomes:** Overcome, conquer, subdue

Present Participle:

Active:

**Will Not:** Not at all

**Be Hurt:** Hurt, damage, harm

Aorist Subjunctive:

Passive:

**Second Death:** Eternal death with eternal punishment