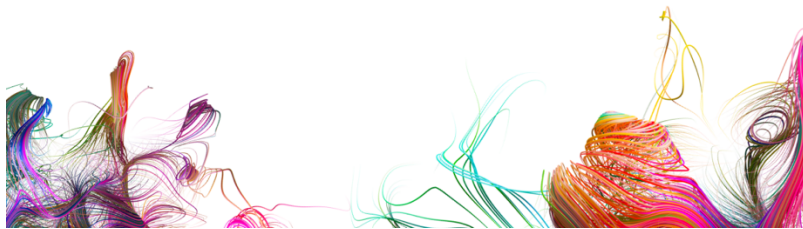


# REVELATION

FINDING PEACE IN A  
WORLD OF CHAOS



  
*city*  
AWAKENING  
C · H · U · R · C · H

**Week 4:** Letter 2: The Worst is Yet to Come

**Date:** Week of 1/28/24

**Scripture:** Revelation 2:8-11

### Bridgebuilder Opening

1. When given the prospect of good news and bad news, which one do you typically want to hear first? For those that chose bad news, why does hearing about it early help you to deal with it?

### Observations and Interpretations

1. Read Revelation 2:8-11, and circle or highlight any words that stand out to you. What are some of your observations from this initial reading of the text?
2. How is that the church of Smyrna can be both slandered in poverty but be rich?
3. How does the description of Jesus as “the first and the last, who died and came to life” give hope to a church being warned about ongoing and upcoming persecution?
4. Have you ever experienced any level of persecution? How do you think you would react to persecution like what is described in this text?

5. How does the end of verse 10 and verse 11 give the “good news” as a follow-up to the bad news?
6. What is the main thing John is trying to teach us in these verses?

### Applications

1. This year our church is focusing on the theme of helping to bring *peace* into our lives and city. How can this text help give you *peace*, as you live in a world of chaos?
2. How has your faith (or the faith of people you have known) been impacted when truly hard times come along? How can we prepare for that possibility, so that we can remain faithful?
3. In one sentence, state one thing the Lord wants you to take away from this study?

### The Gospel and Prayer

We do not know if we will ever face the kind of persecution that this church experienced and that countless Christians have gone through or are currently going through. We do know, however, that we are not promised a pain or difficulty-free life. Let us pray that we would cling closer to Jesus in these times instead of pulling away from Him as we are often tempted.