

Church at Smyrna

As a result of this lesson, I want my students

TK-In spite of all the obstacles (extinct city, threat of war), Smyrna, a “city of suffering” came back as a thriving metropolis city and remained faithful to Rome for which they were rewarded. In spite of all the obstacles (poverty, reviling of Jewish leaders, death), Jesus, a man of suffering remained faithful to His Father by looking forward to the resurrection.
In spite of all the obstacles (loss of property, reputation, career, physical health), Paul, a sharer of Christ’s suffering, fought, finished, and remained faithful by looking forward to the resurrection, for which he was expecting a reward.
In spite of all the obstacles (trials, poverty, slander, imprisonment, death), the believers of Smyrna were exhorted by Jesus to remain faithful because they would be rewarded.
BT- In spite of all the obstacles one may face, one is to identify with Jesus in His suffering and remain faithful by looking to the resurrection and knowing he will receive a reward from God.
Rz- In spite of all the obstacles my students may face, they are to identify with Jesus in His suffering and remain faithful by looking to the resurrection and knowing they will receive a reward from God.
Rd- by remaining faithful regardless of the obstacles.

Outline:

I. Smyrna Remains Faithful to Rome

- A. “City of suffering”=myrrh
- B. City that had been resurrected after 300 years
- C. Remained loyal to Rome even when threatened by Greek armies
- D. Rewarded by Rome with a temple to the emperor

II. Jesus Remains Faithful to the Father

- A. “Man of sorrows; acquainted with grief”
“Gold, frankincense, myrrh”
- B. Overcame obstacles--poverty, reviling of Jewish leaders, death
- C. Focused on resurrection

III. Paul Remains Faithful to Jesus

- A. “That I may know the fellowship of His suffering”
- B. Overcame obstacles--loss of property, reputation, career, physical health
- C. Looked forward to resurrection
- D. Expected a reward from God

IV. Believers of Smyrna Exhorted to Remain Faithful

- A. Obstacles
 1. Trials
 2. Poverty
 3. Reviled by Jewish community
 4. Imprisonment
 5. Death
- B. Exhorted to be faithful
- C. Look to resurrection

Philippians 3:8-14

II Timothy 4:8 Fought, Finished, Faithful crown of life

Read letter to church at Smyrna.

Idea was not a race, possibly idea of gladiator:

D. Expect a reward

| fight to the finish.

Conclusion:

What obstacles have I overcome already in order to be faithful? Ex: taking a stand, honor twd. parents, life circumstances	What obstacles do I need to overcome right now in order to be faithful?	What obstacles do I fear in the future? Ex: material things denied, what others say	GOAL: Fought Finished Faithful PRIZE
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There is no word of rebuke in the letter to the believers in Smyrna. When it is hard, the encouragement/exhortation is to be faithful.