

Revelation - Keep The Long View

1. What most often threatens to hijack your thinking, causing you to be stressed out? What gets you back on track?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. What makes “the things that are seen” seem so much more important than eternal things? What is the benefit of keeping an eternal perspective over an earthly perspective?
3. Read Revelation 2:8. How can this description of Jesus help keep things in proper perspective?
4. Read Revelation 2:9-10. The church in Smyrna was facing really hard things but Jesus was challenging them to see beyond the hardship to something greater. Where are churches facing significant suffering, like Smyrna?
5. When we face hardship and the church faces challenges, how is this a form of spiritual warfare? How does God use this for good? (See Romans 8:25-30)
6. The church in Smyrna was facing the temptation to compromise so life would be easier. How do we face this same temptation today?
7. *“Our greatest enemy is not suffering, it is compromise.”* What is the danger in compromise? How can we stay faithful and still be graceful? How does the perspective we choose to have make a difference?
8. Read the last part of Revelation 2:10 and James 1:12. What is the reward for persevering in the faith?
9. What can you do this week to not lose heart and live with the long view shaping our thoughts and actions? Share what you decide to do with a friend.

SERMON OUTLINE

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Sunday May 10,2015

Pastor David Cooke

The Danger of Getting Caught in the Moment

**When in Doubt, Remember God's _____
and His _____**

Choosing Your Perspective

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

A. Two Perspectives

1. Now

2. Not Yet

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Who Is Jesus?

“And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: ‘The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life.’” (Revelation 2:8, ESV)

- I. **He is the bookend of history - he is the first and the last.**
- II. **In each of the letters, the church is invited to take strength and comfort in who Jesus is. There is power to be found for the church, in Jesus.**

Keep The Long View

Revelation 2:9-10

A. Jesus _____

B. _____ Is Hard

C. All physical life has _____ overtones

The devil is working to destroy

Jesus is working to strengthen

D. Hard things aren't going to _____

E. Faithfulness in the midst of the struggle is the goal.

It is easy to trust God when you understand everything, when everything is going well, when you have all you need and want.

F. Worth It.

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You are. He is.

V. What's the Enemy?

**A. Our greatest enemy is not _____
it is _____**

B. The price is worth the reward.

Answers: Faithfulness, Promises, Knows, Life, spiritual, last forever, suffering, compromise