

For the week of October 7, 2018

Preacher: Scott Grant

# Crown of Life

Third week in the series: *Wake Up*

Revelation 2:8-11

Human incapacity to know the future is the cause for untold human anxiety. Jesus, on the other hand, knows the future. In Revelation 2:8-11, he tells members of the church in Smyrna what's going to happen to them and what they should do about it. How can Jesus' knowledge of the future, even our future, help us?

## Discussion Questions:

1. Jesus says, regarding the suffering we're going through, "I know." What do you feel when you hear Jesus say those words? Are you encouraged to know that he knows? Or are you wondering why he doesn't seem to be doing anything about it?
2. Jesus tells his followers that regardless of their financial state, they're spiritually rich: they're rich in faith and they're heirs of the kingdom, which means they will possess "everything," the new heaven and the new earth (Revelation 21:1). How do you respond to this?
3. Jesus says to the church in Smyrna, "Do not fear what you are about to suffer." How do you think you can draw encouragement from these words?
4. How do you think you have benefited, and might be benefited in the future, by having your faith tested by suffering?
5. Suffering, according to both Paul and John, is not only temporary, it is also producing for us what Paul calls an "eternal weight of glory" and fitting us for what John calls "the crown of life." How do you think this knowledge might help you?