Standing Firm in the Face of Persecution - Rev 2:8-11

- I. Introduction
  - A. Overview of the Church in Smyrna
- II. The Persecuted Church
  - A. The Message to Smyrna
  - B. Title of Christ: The First and the Last
- III. The City of Smyrna
  - A. Historical Significance
  - B. Emperor and Pagan Worship
  - C. The Compulsory Worship of Caesar
  - D. Challenges Faced by Christians
- IV. Tribulations and Poverty
  - A. Acknowledgment of Suffering
  - B. The True Riches of the Church
  - C. Oppressors and Accusers The Synagogue of Satan
    - 1. Slander and Persecution
    - 2. Identification of False Jews
  - D. Encouragement from the Lord
  - E. The Call to Faithfulness
  - F. The Promise of the Crown of Life
- V. The Second Death
  - A. Definition and Significance
  - B. Assurance for the Believers
- VI. Reflection for the Church Today
  - A. Current Challenges and Opportunities
  - B. The Call to Boldness in Faith