

**WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH . . .
REVELATION 2:8-11**

Introduction - Our teamwork: like pyramid-building . . . or football . . . or war?

I. THE CONDITION OF CONFLICT: APPEARANCES AND REALITIES

- A. The city of Smyrna
 - 1. appearance
 - 2. reality

- B. The church at Smyrna
 - 1. appearance
 - 2. reality
 - *cf. II Corinthians 8:2; James 2:5; Luke 6:20; I Timothy 6:6; Philippians 4:19*

- C. The opponents of the Smyrna church
 - 1. appearance
 - 2. reality
 - *cf. Romans 2:28,29*

II. THE COMING CRISIS

- A. The inevitability
 - *cf. Hebrews 11:32-38*

- B. The source

- C. The form

- D. The motive

- E. The duration
 - *cf. I Peter 5:8,9*

III. THE CLEAR CHALLENGE

IV. THE CHRIST-CENTERED COMFORT

- A. Christ's person

- B. Christ's promise
 - *cf. Revelation 20:11-15*

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS
AUGUST 18-24**

The passages this week speak about the spiritual warfare that we face as Christians, and how to remain strong and steadfast. Where is temptation strongest for you? Be diligent in prayer this week, and alert to the enemy's attacks.

MONDAY	Luke 22:14-26
TUESDAY	John 17:1-26
WEDNESDAY	I Corinthians 10:1-13; II Corinthians 10:3-5
THURSDAY	Ephesians 6:10-20
FRIDAY	I Peter 5:1-11
SATURDAY	I John 4:1-6
SUNDAY	Revelation 12:10-12