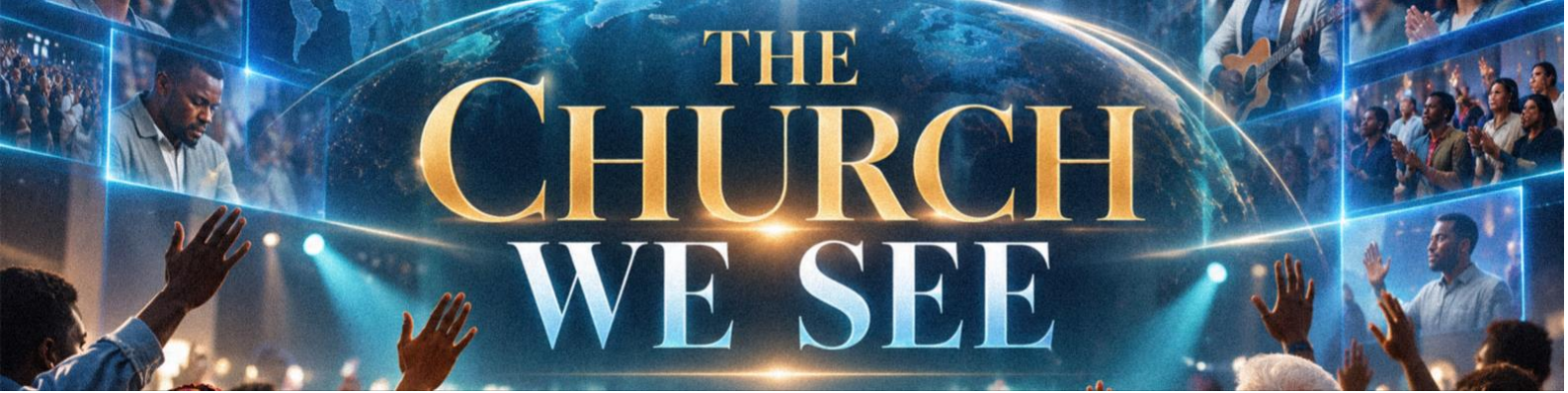




SERMON SERIES: The Church We See

SERMON TITLE: Faithful Through The Fire

KEY TEXT (ESV): Revelation 2:8-11

OTHER TEXTS (ESV): 1 Timothy 6:10, Matthew 12:20, Isaiah 53:5, Matthew 10:28.

BIG IDEA: This series, through the Book of Revelation, is designed to help ordinary believers understand God's perspective on their lives, circumstances, struggles, and future. Revelation reminds us that Jesus Christ is faithful, victorious, and sovereign over all things. He has loved us, freed us from our sins, made us a kingdom and priests to God, and is coming again. Therefore, regardless of what we face, we are called to remain faithful, disciplined, and patient in our walk with God. As we journey through this series, we will learn to look beyond our present circumstances and allow God's perspective, revealed through Revelation, to shape how we live, endure, and remain committed to Him.

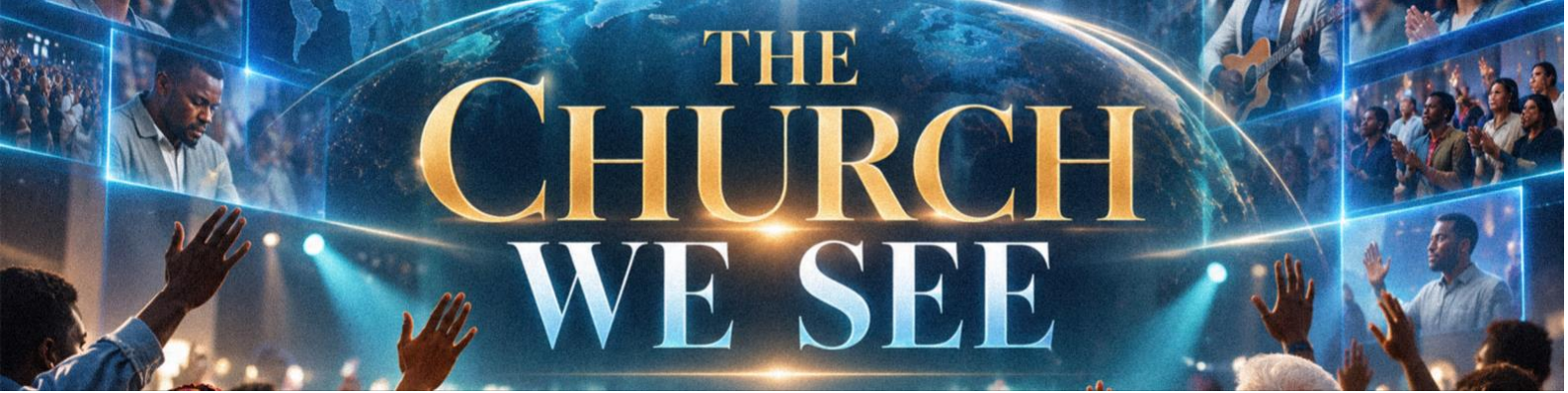
In this third sermon of the series, Pastor Moffat encourages believers to remain steadfast in their faith and committed to Christ through trials, persecution, and pressure, without compromising their convictions, trusting in His victory and the promise of eternal life.

KEY TEXT: Revelation 2:8-11 ESV

And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: 'The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life. "I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.'

God Bless You!

The Connection Groups Office



Leader Heads-Up: *Intentionally check on those who have been missing from fellowship. Every person matters, and every follow-up can help bring someone back.*

A. Start Talking:

What is one piece of advice you often give others with confidence, but find it difficult to apply consistently in your own life?

B. Start Thinking

1. Read **Revelation 2:9 ESV**. Reflect on how you responded the last time you experienced financial strain, pressure, or criticism from others. Did your response reflect confidence in Christ or dependence on money, status, or people's approval? What does this reveal about where you find your security?
2. Read **Revelation 2:10 ESV**. Identify an area of your life where you are tempted to compromise your Christian principles to protect your comfort, reputation, relationships, or finances. What are you afraid of losing, and what practical steps will you take to remain accountable and stand firm in your faith?
3. Before Jesus tells the church in Smyrna what to do next, He acknowledges their situation, "I know your tribulation and your poverty... and the slander." What does it mean to you that Jesus sees, knows, and acknowledges what you are going through? How should knowing that Christ sees you affect the way you respond to difficult seasons? **Revelation 2:9 ESV**

C. Start Doing

1. **Examine** where you find your security in difficult circumstances, and identify how you can deepen your dependence on Christ.
2. **Identify** areas where fear of losing your comfort, reputation, relationships, or finances may be influencing your decisions, and commit to upholding your Christian convictions without compromise.
3. **Evaluate** how your understanding of Jesus as the First and the Last, who died and came to life, influences your response to present trials, and choose to trust His sovereignty even when the outcome is uncertain.
4. **Practice** steadfast faithfulness in your daily choices by remaining committed to God's Word, refusing to be shaped by worldly influences, and persevering in Christ regardless of the cost.

D. Start Praying (Pray as a group during the meeting)

Corporate Church Prayer - Faithful Through the Fire

1. **Pray for unwavering faithfulness in trials:** Pray that we will remain faithful to Christ when facing pressure, hardship, or difficult circumstances, trusting Him even when obedience comes at a cost (**Revelation 2:10 ESV**).
2. **Pray for courage instead of fear:** Pray for the grace to reject fear when facing uncertainty, opposition, or suffering, and to stand firmly in our faith because Christ is with us (**Revelation 2:10 ESV**).
3. **Pray for MLFC and the Body of Christ to stand firm on God's Word:** Pray that MLFC and the Body of Christ will remain firmly rooted in God's Word, refusing to be shaped by worldly influence, and that our lives will demonstrate Christ's truth and influence our nation (**Revelation 2:11 ESV**)

Leader Report Reminder: <https://miraclelifefamily.churchcenter.com/people/forms/604025>

School For Life: Sign up via <https://miraclelifefamily.churchcenter.com/registrations>