

Encouragement During Persecution

Revelation 2:8-11

Intro: the martyrdom of Polycarp and the Lord's concern for His own

- John saw Jesus with a sword coming out of His mouth
(Isa. 11:14, Revelation 19:15)

- John saw Jesus walking in the midst of His churches
(Ps. 139, Rom. 8:38-39, Ps. 23:4)

I. The Lord's description of Himself v. 8

A. "the First and the Last" - Isa. 41:4, 44:6, 48:12

B. "who was dead, and came to life"

II. The Lord's knowledge of His people v. 9

A. "I know your tribulation"

B. "and poverty"

C. "and the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews"
- Romans 2:28-29

III. The Lord's encouragement to His people v. 10

A. "Do not fear"

B. "Be faithful until dead, and I will give you the crown of life" -
James 1:12

IV. The Lord's promise to His people v. 11

A. "shall not be hurt by the second death." - Rev. 20:14

B. "He who has an ear let him hear..."

Concluding application: Matthew 10:28-31