



JANUARY 16, 2022 | AARON CLOUD

**Key Tension:** How can the church maintain a faithful IDENTITY & witness through all seasons?

### **Smyrna: Situation & Setting**

- Churches in Asia Minor experiencing cultural shift
- Facing persecution from the state, social pressures & other religions

**Tension:** How can the CHURCH (you & I) respond & live faithfully in hard seasons, perhaps where we face persecution or trial?

**Core Issue:** IDENTITY of the church. Where is our hope? Who do we worship?

### **I. Remain Rooted in TRUTH**

**Lie:** Trials & PERSECUTION are an indication that things are beyond God's control.

**Truth:** Jesus is SOVEREIGN over all things & has conquered DEATH & brings life.

**Lie:** Trials & persecution are an indication that God has FORGOTTEN His people or doesn't care.

**Truth:** Rely on God's PRESENCE.

**Lie:** Trials & persecution are an indication that we have been DEFEATED.

**Truth:** Those who OVERCOME will be given a victor's crown of life.

### **II. Remain Rooted in the Hope of God's Redemptive PURPOSES**

- PURPOSE: God is shaping, forming & refining me.
- PROMISE: God guides His people through & has not forgotten them.
- PRESENCE: God knows & is present with His people.

### **III. Respond in Truth of our Identity as Christ Followers**

- Refuse to live in FEAR.
- Be FAITHFUL.

### **Reflection**

What TRUTH about God do you need to anchor your life in this week?

What PROMISE about God from scripture do you need to be reminded of?

Where is God calling you to live out your faith PROACTIVELY?

# THE BIG 3

THREE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

## **GROWTH GROUPS**

Growth Groups just started last week, but there's still time to sign-up! This is a great opportunity to get connected here at GracePoint & be challenged to grow in your faith. For a listing of all the groups being offered go to [gracepointwesleyan.org/growth-groups](http://gracepointwesleyan.org/growth-groups).

You can sign-up for a group three ways:

1. Grow in Grace kiosk in the foyer.
2. Go to [www.gracepointwesleyan.org/growth-groups](http://www.gracepointwesleyan.org/growth-groups).
3. Email Pastor Dave at [dhopewell@gracepointwesleyan.org](mailto:dhopewell@gracepointwesleyan.org).

## **20s DINER**

College students, interested in a FREE meal? Come to 20s Diner next Sunday, January 23 after second & third service in the Great Room. Bring a friend!

## **GENERATIONS SUNDAY**

GracePoint is having Generations Sunday every month that has a 5th Sunday. Join us January 30 during all three morning services to worship, pray, laugh, learn & encourage one another as we follow Christ. Kids ministry will still be offered for kids birth to Pre-K.

