



“The Lord’s “F” Letter Grade”

1. READ

Scripture: Revelation 2:8-11 New King James Version (NKJV)

And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of the first and the last, who was dead and came to life: “I know your affliction and your poverty, even though you are rich. I know the slander on the part 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. Beware, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison so that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have affliction. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. Whoever conquers will not be harmed by the second death.





Suggested Chapters to Study This Week: Revelation 2

REFLECT

[\[Click the image\]](#)



Rev. Dr. William Watley is our guest preacher today as we celebrate our Pastor, Rev. Matthew L. Watley.

Dr. Watley uses as his title “The Lord’s F Letter Grade,” he explains that in grade school, many of us know that the grade we want, or desire is not an “F.” “F” means that we aren’t passing or that we have missed the mark. Receiving an “F” means that we haven’t done as well as we should have. Instead, though Dr. Watley helps us to understand from our scripture today that the Lord’s “F” letter grade is for “faithfulness.” God wants us to be faithful in life and ministry. Dr. Watley helps us understand that the word “faithful” applies to Christians as the writer explains in the Bible text, but it also applies to Pastor Matthew Watley. Here is an outline of the word Faithfulness that Dr. Watley shares with us.





Faithfulness (outlined)

Foundation
Anointing
Integrity
Tenderness
Hope
Fulfillment
Understanding
Love
Newness
Endearment
Salvation
Strengthen

Pastor Watley has been faithful in several areas of his life, and he stands as an example to us all of God's faithfulness. Dr. Watley shares that a few other points on what it means to have faith.

- Faith is proven as we are tested
- Faith has character
- Faith has quality
- Faith last long and doesn't give us

Our faith is supposed to stand as an example for those watching and makes the scripture true from *Galatians 6:9* *And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.*

Dr. Watley closes his sermon with encouragement to Pastor Watley as well as us. God wants us to be faithful until the end, until the very last drop, so that we hear the Lord say "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter the joy of your Lord." Matthew 25:23.

We have to be faithful to our Lord.





1. RESPOND

Introspective Questions

- ï **When was the last time you were an example of God’s faithfulness?**
- ï **What ways can you grow your faith in Christ this week?**

Discussion Questions

- ï **What do you think those reading the Scripture thought about their soon coming persecution?**
- ï **The scripture ask that we are “faithful” until death knowing that God has life for us, how can we practice this today?**

