

# The Crown of life

Creating a legacy that leads people to God



## 12:11 | Revelation of Christ

11 “They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death



**What is at stake?**



**Values (dit wat baie belangrik is)**

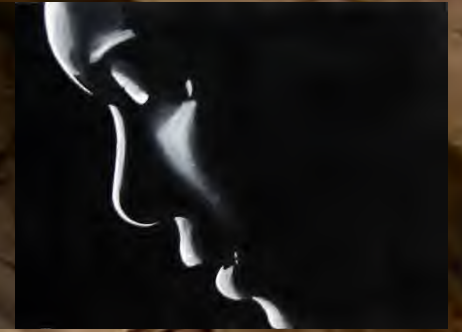
**The testimony of Jesus Christ**

**Our faithfulness**



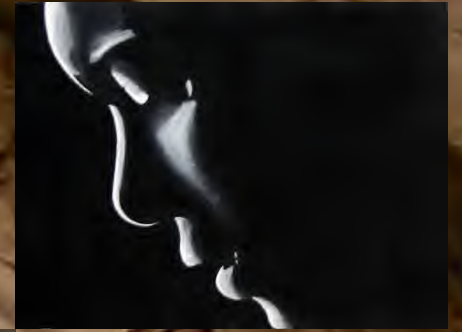
# The value of values

Why did Polycarp choose to be a martyr?



Polycarp  
69 – 155 AD

# The value of values



**Total commitment to God**

**Total commitment to neighbour**

**Total commitment to the great commission**

**Every church needs to appraise its own commitment to these values**

**The alternative**

**Money seduction**

**Power seduction**

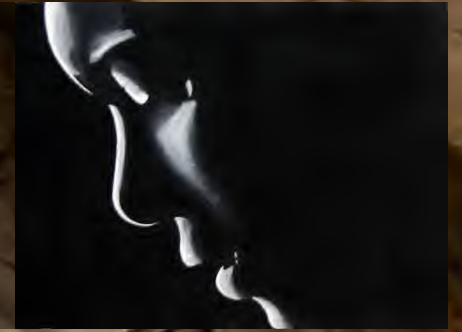
**Pleasure seduction**

**Deadly and stubborn forces facing the Church today – indeed the whole of society across the world**



# The value of values

## Polycarp opted for the higher road



Polycarp  
69 – 155 AD

# The value of the gospel

Although salvation is free, the proclamation of the gospel is costly

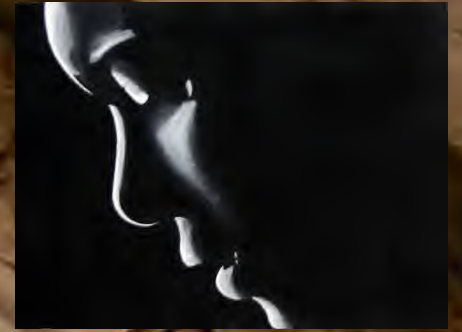
To build credibility  
(stature) for the message  
and  
The institutions for  
propagating the message  
...is costly



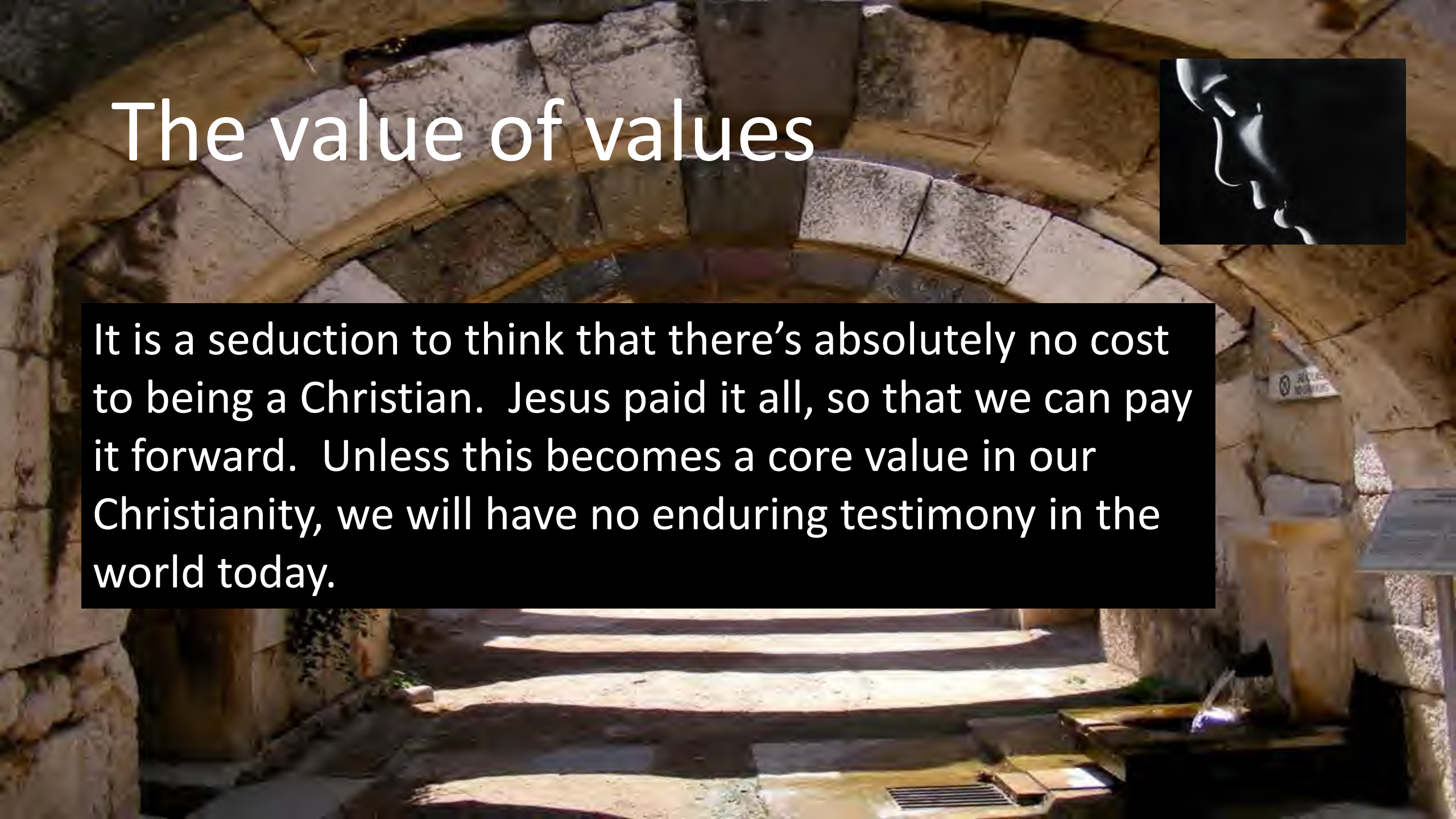
Polycarp  
69 – 155 AD



# The value of values



It is a seduction to think that there's absolutely no cost to being a Christian. Jesus paid it all, so that we can pay it forward. Unless this becomes a core value in our Christianity, we will have no enduring testimony in the world today.



# Dear church in Smyrna...

## 2:8 | Revelation of Christ



8 "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: 'The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life.'



# Dear church in Smyrna...

## 2:9 | Commendation

9 "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.



# Dear church in Smyrna...

## 2:10 | Exhortation and Warning



10 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.



# Dear church in Smyrna...

2:11 | Promise

11 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.'



# The Recipients of the Revelation



Written by John

- On Patmos
- During Domitian's reign (AD 95-96)

*“What good would this book have been for 1<sup>st</sup> century readers in Ephesus if it only tells of events 2000 later?”*



# SMYRNA



A long, dimly lit stone tunnel with a series of arches receding into the distance. The walls and ceiling are made of large, rough-hewn stone blocks. The floor is also stone, with some steps or a slight incline. The lighting is low, creating a sense of depth and mystery.

# Dear church in Durbanville...

## lets do the maths

1. There is a cost
2. There is a reward
3. Desire to create a legacy of faithfulness
4. Let your legacy lead as many as possible to God