

SUMMER IN THE SPIRIT



**Altar Time Every Saturday Night
At The End Of Every Sunday Service**

Life is good but not fair.

**Pain is part of a good life
in a broken & sinful world.**



The SEVEN

Churches of Revelation



Turkey

PERGAMUM ●

● THYATIRA

● SARDIS

● PHILADELPHIA

● LAODICEA

SMYRNA ●

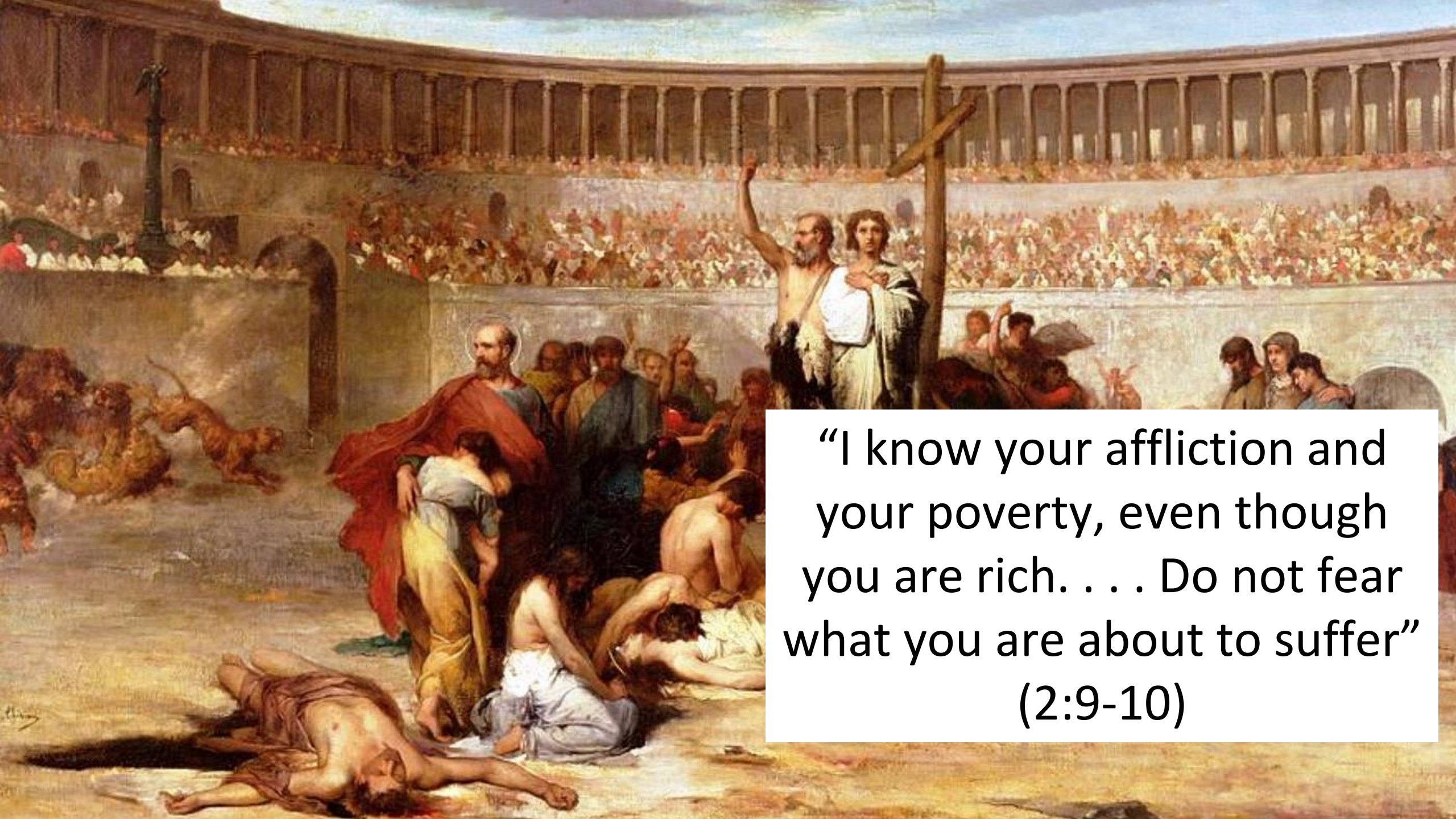
EPHESUS ●

PATMOS ●



Life For Christians In Smyrna Under Roman Emperor Domitian (81-96AD)

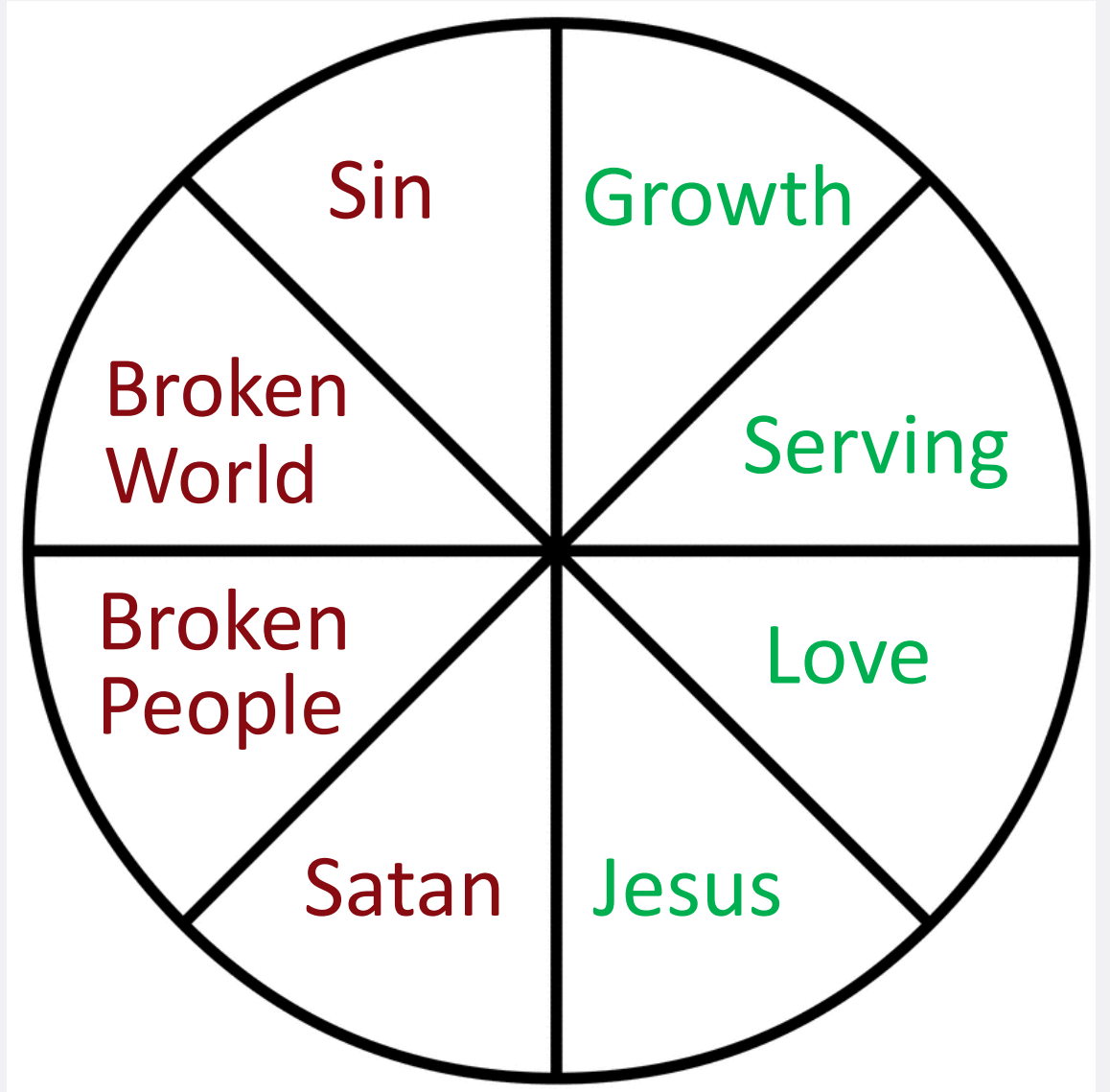
- Once a year every citizen must enter his temple and declare “Caesar is Lord” & offer incense & receive a government certificate
- Only exemption were Jews
- Smyrna was the leading city of Emperor Worship outside of Rome



“I know your affliction and
your poverty, even though
you are rich. . . . Do not fear
what you are about to suffer”
(2:9-10)

Reasons For Pain

*“I know your
affliction and your
poverty...” (v9)*



The Reality Of Pain & Jesus

*“that you may be tested for
ten days” (v10)*

*“These are the words
[promises] of the first & the
last, who was dead & came
to life” (v8)*

Limited

Temporary

Useful

Under Jesus

The Danger Of Pain

*“do not fear what you
about to suffer” (v10)*

The Danger Of Pain

*“do not fear what you
about to suffer” (v10)*

Pain & Fear
Push Us To Be Selfish

Selfishness
Always Lead To Pride

Pride Always
Steals, Kills & Destroys

The Reward Of Pain

*“Whoever conquers will
not be harmed by the
second death.” (v12)*

Pain can humble us & remind
us how much we need God

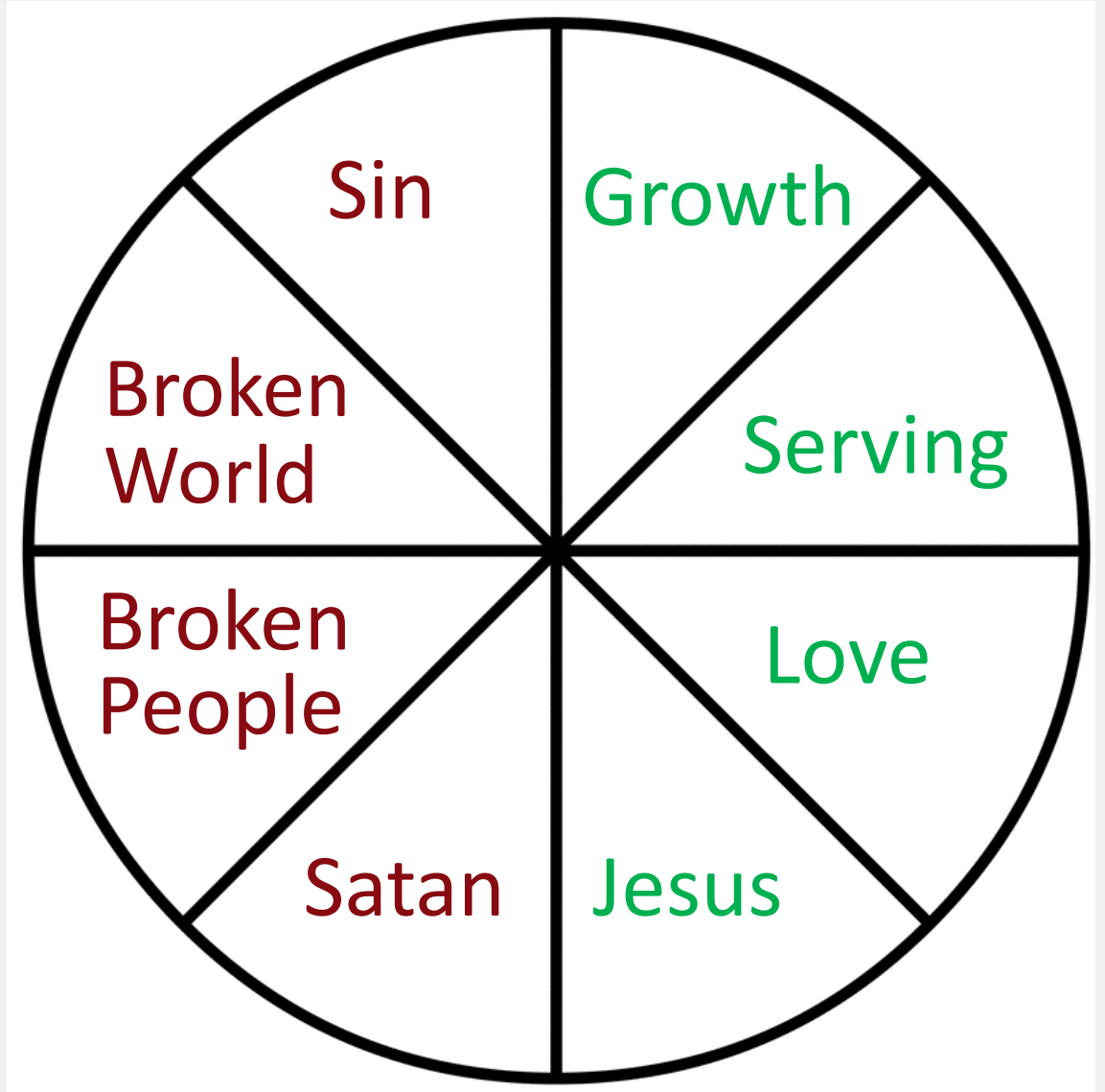
Pain can remind us not to
depend on this world.

We can follow Jesus to The
Cross and find resurrection life
and victory for others.

The Choice To Make In Pain

“Be faithful until death and I will give you the crown of life.” (v10b)

Humility not Pride



How To Choose Humility

*“Let anyone who has
an ear hear what the
Spirit is saying” (v11)*

First In Prayers

Submit To Fasting

Build Altars

Visible Obedience





Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna

- 69-156AD
- Disciple of John
- Mid 30s when received this letter from Jesus
- Remembered Jesus' words



Ruby Bridges

- 6years old
 - First black student a New Orleans School
- November 14, 1960





Beckett Cook



Brenna Blain



Jackie Hill Perry

**Overcome
Your Pain.
Choose to
Humble
Yourself &
Follow Jesus**

First In Prayers
Submit To Fasting
Build Altars
Visible Obedience