

The Church of Smyrna: The Persecuted Church…

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.
Revelations 2:10

Letters to the Seven Churches…

- Ephesus (Revelation 2:1-7)
- Smyrna (Revelation 2:8-11)
- Pergamum (Revelation 2:12-17)
- Thyatira (Revelation 2:18-29)
- Sardis (Revelation 3:1-6)
- Philadelphia (Revelation 3:7-13)
- Laodicea (Revelation 3:14-22)

But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent…. **Revelations 2:4-5**

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches… **Revelations 2:7**

The City of Smyrna…

- The city of Smyrna in biblical geography was located in Asia Minor which is modern-day Izmir in Turkey.
- Smyrna was a prosperous port city known for its beauty and strategic location. It was a center of trade and culture, boasting of a strong allegiance to Rome and had a significant Jewish population.
- The city's strong commitment to submission and worship of the emperor posed challenges for Christians, who refused to participate in such practices, leading to social and economic persecution.
- The Church in Smyrna is unique among the seven churches as it receives no rebuke from Christ. Reflecting the purity and faithfulness of the believers amidst adversity. This must speak to us today!!

To the Church in Smyrna… Revelations 2:8-11

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. **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. **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. **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’…

To the Church in Smyrna… Revelations 2:8-11

- Jesus calls for us to keep our focus on eternity. Death is not the end.
- The Lord desires more that we be rich in good works rather than material wealth.
- Be wary of those who reject genuine faith and oppose the work of God.
- We will be persecuted and will face tribulation. Let us not be afraid.
- We must be faithful and walk in obedience. There is a reward!

and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved… **Matthew 10:22**

Jesus on the persecution of the Church…

- “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you… **John 15:18-19**
- I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world”… **John 16:33**
- So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven… **Matthew 10:32-33**

Conclusion…

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing… **James 1:2-4**

Let us pray…

