

Revelation Study ~ Chapter 2 part 2

Revelation 2:8-11 - The Church of Smyrna

This second letter to the church in Smyrna is the first church without a condemnatory statement from Jesus. Persecution is clearly the main theme that this church deals with.

1. **How is Jesus Identified to the Smyrna church?**
2. **Considering the reality of their suffering and tribulation, why do you think Jesus identified Himself this way?**

The next section of the letter to Smyrna brings out the **commendation** that Jesus has for the church. Now the modern day city of Izmir, the city of Smyrna boasted a heightened regard for Caesar worship as well as possessing a large Jewish population. It is unknown when the church was founded, but history denotes that the second century Christian leader, Polycarp, was martyred in Smyrna for his faith in Christ and unwillingness to worship Caesar.

What significance are the commendations given by Jesus?

- a. **Their tribulation -**
- b. **Their poverty -**
- c. **The slander received -**

There is no condemnation for this church. Jesus does offer a word of encouragement for what the church will suffer as well as a promise for their steadfast faithfulness. This becomes a clear reminder that suffering is a part of the life of the Christian.

1. **What is the suffering that is set for the church in Smyrna?**
2. **What is the significance of the length of time spoken of by Jesus (ten days)?**

With no condemnation, there is no prescribed correction needed. Speculate: why isn't there any condemnatory remarks for this church? As stated earlier, Jesus offers a promise for their faithfulness.

1. **To what extent should a believer be willing to suffer?**

2. What is the promise offered to those who are faithful to the end?

The closing of the letter to Smyrna, as with the other churches, is a call to listen and conquer.

To whom is the Spirit talking?

What is the promise to the one who conquers?

(Key Words not found in the prologue study guide.)

1. Slander - (Greek: Blasphemian) meaning "abusive or scurrilous language"
2. Tested - (Greek: Peirasthete) meaning "to make proof of"
3. Satan - (Greek: Satana) meaning "adversary"
4. Devil - (Greek: Diabolos) meaning "slandorous or the slanderer"