

THE CHURCH IN SMYRNA

REV. 2:8-11

Introduction:

- A. This church has no condemnatory message.
 - 1. The only one of the seven churches.
 - 2. Exhorted to continue faithful service.

- B. "and unto the angel of the church in Smyrna, write."
 - 1. Smyrna = Greek form of the Hebrew word, "myrrh", a sweet fragrant spice used in connection with burials
 - 2. angel = messenger or pastor.

I. THE AUTHOR'S ASSURANCE. V8b

- A. "These things saith the first and the last."
 - 1. Jesus identifies Himself.

- B. "which was dead, and is alive."
 - 1. Which being dead is alive.

II. THE CHARACTER OF THE CHURCH. V9

- A. "I know thy works and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich)."
 - 1. works = ergon - the result of labor.
 - 2. tribulation = thlipsis - pressure, trouble.
 - 3. poverty = ptocheia - begging poverty, extreme.
 - 4. rich = plousios - wealthy.

- B. "and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of satan."
 - 1. A literal settlement of Jews, brought fuel.
 - 2. Polycarp, pastor, burned in 156.

III. THE CHURCH WOULD SUFFER. V10

- A. "fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer."
 - 1. suffer = pascho - to be acted upon by something from without.
 - 2. Jesus = Matt. 10:28.

- B. "behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that yemay be tried."
 - 1. Matt. 10:16-18.
 - 2. The servant is not above His master.

- C. "and ye shall have tribulation ten days."
 - 1. The ten following rulers is doubtful.
 - 2. A short period of time.

- D. "be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."
 - 1. Polycarp = "Eighty and six years have I served Christ, and He has done me nothing but good; How then could I curse Him, my Lord and Savior?"

IV. THE PROMISE OF GOD. V11

- A. "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."
 - 1. Not literal ears but a discerning heart.

- B. "He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death."
 - 1. Rev. 20:14.
 - 2. All the lost and wicked.