

7 Churches of Revelation

Smyrna - The Suffering Church

Revelation 2:8-11

A revelation of Christ Things that you have seen, are and are to come
Written to the 7 Churches and us

Introduction to the city of Smyrna - Name means 'bitter' Myrrh exported
35 Miles north of Ephesus, coastal but not harbor,
Large 100,000 to 200.000 population,

3 Key factors History - built, destroyed, rebuilt by Alexander the Great
 Called themselves those who died and live again
 Politics - Guilds (labor unions ran everything but included
 Emperor Worship, no jobs or education without
 Religion - Emperor Worship - Temple to Tiberius and others
 Jews had agreement with city and were accepted

I. Christ - The First and the Last, who was dead and has come to life

1. Christ identified as creator and Lord over all
2. Christ identified as one who has suffered and died - but alive

II. Commendation - Faithful in tribulation

1. They were under tribulation (torture with weights)
Poverty - could not work, excluded from wealth of city
Slandered - by the Jews who betrayed them -as they did Christ
Imprisonment and death (10 Days= short time) Prisons for trial
Execution was by fire or thrown to wild beasts

III. Complaint - None

Possibly encouragement to believe that they are rich

IV. Counsel -Do not fear - Be Faithful unto death

Do not fear used over 300 times in bible

They would be slandered - Satan, Devil - accuser of saints

They would be imprisoned and suffer for 10 days

Meaning a short time period **Nehemiah 4:12 and Daniel 1:12**

They would die for their faith - and the church would grow

Be faithful unto death

Jesus said "He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much." Luke 16:10 & 2Timothy 4:7

V. Compensation I will give you the crown of life

You will not be hurt by the second death

The crown of life - not royal crown but victor's crown

James 1:12 Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

1 Peter 5:4 1 Corinthians 9:25

Not hurt by the second death

Revelation 20:14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire -this is the second death, the lake of fire.

Revelation 21:8

Those who reject truth will suffer forever

VI. Crux

1. The Godly will suffer tribulation

2 Timothy 3:12 In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

We will be persecuted -We will be slandered

Some will be imprisoned for their faith

Some will die for their faith

2. We are indeed rich in Christ

Isaiah 33:5-6 The LORD is exalted, for He dwells on high; He has filled Zion with justice and righteousness. And He will be the stability of your times, A wealth of salvation, wisdom and knowledge; The fear of the LORD is his treasure.

Colossians 2:2-3 that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Not the riches of the World which perish

Silver and Gold have I none... **Acts 3:6**

He supplies our needs through His riches **Philippians 4:19**

3. We do not need to fear - Jesus died and lives again

Hebrews 2:14-15

Jesus has identified with us in order to defeat the devil

Jesus delivers us from the fear of death

Jesus frees us from the slavery of fear

4. Christ's one requirement is for us to be faithful unto death

Faithfulness brings the crown of victory

James 1:12 Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

We can be faithful because He is faithful

Forsaking, All, I, Trust, Him, For, Ultimate, Life