

I. The Message to the Church of Smyrna, Revelation 2:8-11

A. The City of Smyrna

1. The center of Emperor _____

A beautiful backdrop and a major flaw

2. Its name means myrrh

Wounded and crushed for perfume and embalming

B. A Description of Christ (vs. 8)

1. The First and The Last, Rev. 1:8, Rev. 1:18

2. This little suffering, persecuted church, would have found _____ in these words.

3. The crushing and fragrant extracting of this perfume, along with its intended use (embalming) and the prospect of their own impending death (persecution), being reminded of the death and resurrection of their Saviour, would have been no little thing!

4. This myrrh-church, in its own crushing, yielded a _____, reminding its persecutors that death is swallowed up in _____

C. The Commendation (vs. 9)

1. I know your tribulation: Christ knew what they were going through, their _____

a. Why were they persecuted: Their opposition to Emperor _____

b. Their denouncement of proclaiming "Caesar as lord!"

c. Nevertheless, it should have been of no surprise

2. I know your poverty

- a. They were destitute: they had _____
- b. But they were rich: in _____

II Corinthians 8:9

Ephesians 3:8

3. I know the slander

- a. The Pretenders said they were Jews and _____
 - i. Why? Jews were exempt from having to bow to Caesar, so maybe they pretended so they would not have to bow but that did not stop them from tattling

Or

- ii. They were not Jews because they did not "Praise" God
Romans 2:28, 29

4. Christ empathized, Christ Knew!

Isaiah 53:7

Mark 14:60-65

I Peter 2:21-24

D. The Exhortation (vs.10)

1. Do not fear

- a. More suffering to come
- b. Imprisonment
- c. Testing
- d. More tribulation: From Satan and for a _____

2. Be faithful

- a. meaning: to be _____, I Peter 1:15
- b. Look to _____
- c. Relay on Him

d. Be _____ to suffer, I Peter 4:12

3. The promise

James 1:12, The Crown of life: it is in the future and it is now!

E. The Salutation

1. Listen and _____, and you will be an overcomer
2. Will not face the second death or _____ separation from God

A Bit of History

Christ comforted this church,

Persecution strengthened this church,

No condemnation was brought to this church,

This poor, little, rich church, was crushed and full of sweet aroma and came out as victorious overcomers!

Application:

R U enduring persecution? (R U willing, to?)

R U comforted that Christ is the first and the last?

R U afraid of the coming days?

R U a sweet smelling aroma in a stinky world?

R U ready for His return? R U living with eternity in mind?

Read Revelation 2:12-17

- According to 2:12, what is Christ holding in His hand?

- What is the one thing, (2:13) that Jesus knew about them? I know where you _____

- 2:14, and 15 Christ held this against them, that they held to the teachings of whom?

- 2:16, what did they need to do?