

# *The Revelation*

## (4) The Message to the Church

### *The letter to the Church at Smyrna... Rev.2:8-11*

What attributes of Christ are used to address the church at Smyrna? vs.8 Why? vs.9, 10

**The First and Last, who was dead and is now alive. The church was facing martyrdom.**

In addition to facing death, what was their present physical status? vs.9 Comment?

**They were in total poverty from persecution. This word goes beyond "poor".**

But what does the Lord assure them of immediately? vs.9 Comment?

**Poor in this world but rich in what counts! That is little comfort right now without FAITH**

On top of all this, what else were they experiencing? vs.9, 10

**Direct Satanic attack, openly as a false 'synagogue'. And more persecution was coming.**

Comment on their rebuke and their commendation. vs.10 cp Job 1:12; 2:6 James 1:2-3

**No rebuke! They were told (limited, '10 days) suffering was coming. Be faithful to death...**

*Suffering: Discipline, preventing, obedience, His glory: ICor.11:30-32; IICor.12:7; Heb.5:8; Acts 9:16*

How does the name Smyrna illustrate how the Lord felt about this church? Ex.30:23-25

**Smyrna = myrrh, which was major ingredient in His Holy anointing oil. Sweet fragrance.**

How does this church relate to us today?

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### *The letter to the Church at Pergamum... Rev.2:12-17*

What attributes of Christ are used to address the church at Pergamum? vs. 12 Why? vs.16

**The one with the sharp 2 edged sword (rhomphaia). This was about to be a war!**

Even in times of martyrdom what does Christ commend them for? vs.13

**Living where Satan's throne was, facing death, they held fast, not denying Him. Very good**

But they are rebuked. What was their failing? vs.14-15 Numbers 22-25; 31:15-16

**They did not purge the church of false teachers. Believers were being seduced... Very bad**

How is this related to the church of Ephesus? vs.2, 3, 6 and to us?

**The point is false teachers in the church. Ephesus purged them, Pergamum didn't. We...?**

Why do you think the Lord puts so much emphasis on false teachers? Eph.5:25-30 I Tim.3:15

**The church is His body and is to be Truth in this world. He will NOT tolerate lies...**

And what was the offense of these false teachers? vs.14

**Like Balaam, they put stumbling blocks to believers; idols, intermarriage, immorality.**

What's the warning to the church? vs.16

**Repent! Purge the false teachers or else Jesus is coming to wage war (with them).**

Why was the 'new name' especially pertinent to Pergamum?

**City prided themselves on the largest library of the day. Files, catalogs, names...**

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