



Hillside Baptist Church Sunday Night Study

An Exposition of Revelation

Letter to the Church in Smyrna **Revelation 2:8-11**

I. The Opening Address and Self Identification of Christ (2:8)

A. To the Angel of the church in Smyrna

B. The Words of the

1. First and the Last (1:17b-18)
2. Who Died and Came to Life (1:18)

The church at Smyrna was a persecuted church, so the letter comes from the sovereign Eternal One who died and came to life again. As he was victorious over death, so they, too, can face martyrdom knowing that faithfulness is rewarded with eternal life

II. A Word of Commendation (2:9)

A. I know your tribulation

B. And your Poverty...

1. Poverty most likely produced by their religious persecution.
2. Physically Poor, but Spiritually Rich
(Lk. 6:20; 2 Cor. 6:8b-10; Jam. 2:5)

C. And the slander of

1. Those saying they are Jews, but are not
2. But are a Synagogue of Satan (read John 8:31-47) Theological statement.

* NOTICE: NO WORDS OF CRITICISM only other church like this is Philadelphia

III. A Word of Insight and Hope (2:10)

A. Do not fear what you are about to suffer

(Because he is the first and the last!!! - Isa 41:10; 44:2; 48:13)

Don't be fearful, be faithful

1. The Devil is about to throw some of you into prison (Heb. 10:34)

- That you may be tested (Jam.1:2-4; 1 Cor. 11:19; Heb 12:7-13)

2. For ten days you will have tribulation (Matt. 24:9)

- In the case of the Smyrneans, John does not expect an extensive universal persecution but a local one of short duration

- An allusion to Daniel 1:8-21

B. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the Crown of Life

(Jam. 1:12; Rev. 12:11)

IV. A Call to Hear and Look to the Promise (2:11)

A. He who has an ear, left him hear what the Spirit says **to the churches..**

(Ezek. 3:27; Matt. 13:9) - Words will comfort the believer and have a judicial effect on the unbeliever.

B. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the **Second Death.**

(Rev. 20:4-6; 21:8; Luke 12:4-5)

Application

1. Treasure Christ above even your own life. To live is Christ
2. Be fearless in the face of persecution.
3. There is something far more terrible than physical death.
4. Is Christ the First and Last of your life, your choices, your actions, your hope?