

## CHURCH AT SMYRNA

**Rev. 2: 8 – 11** “Anyone who is willing to hear should listen to the Spirit & understand what the Spirit is saying to the churches.”

Heb. 4: 15 “We do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.”

Heb. 5: 7 “In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying & tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety.”

**Matt. 10: 22 – 28** “What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops.”

**Matt. 24: 11 – 14** “And because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold.”

Luke 6: 22-23. “**Blessed** are you when men hate you, and ostracize you, and cast insults at you, and spurn your name as evil, for the sake of the Son of Man. “**Be glad in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for in the same way their fathers used to treat the prophets.**”

Phil. 3: 14 “I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

**II Tim. 4: 6-8** “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith.”

James 1: 12 “Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised **to those who love Him.**”

Rev. 12: 10, 11 And I heard a loud voice in heaven saying, “Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night. And they **overcame** him because of the **blood of the Lamb** and because of the **word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even to death.**”

**Rev. 20: 11 – 15** “If anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

II Cor. 5: 9, 10 “Therefore, also we have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

John 5: 24 “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”

## Smyrna

25 miles north of Ephesus {Port City in Asia Minor (Turkey)} – Nicknamed “Port of Asia” excellent harbor on the Aegean Sea.

Famous for its athletic games. Crown was victory wreath.

Church struggled against 2 hostile forces 1) Jewish population opposed to Christianity.  
2) Non-Jewish population loyal to Rome and emperor worship.  
Center of imperial cult of Rome.

Peter and Paul both martyred. Church at Jerusalem destroyed.

Church at Smyrna & Church at Philadelphia are unique. No condemnation.  
“Be faithful unto death” “Hold fast what you have”

**We need to learn from their example**

**Ten Days** - Ten periods of persecution from Nero to Diocletian. Roman Emperor Diocletian – closing reign – bitter pagan persecution occurred.  
Many faithful martyrs died in this long and bitter pagan assault on Christians.

- 9) “Say they are Jews and are not”, synagogue of satan. – The church had become infested with men who were seeking to use Christianity for their own purposes.

Persecution comes from satan not God. Tempter. Is persecution temptation?