

CHURCH UNDER ATTACK
REV. 2:8-11 / 4-25-18 / WED

I. FIRST, SMYRA WAS A CRUSHED CHURCH.

- A. They were crushed by persecution—v.9—**“I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not....”**
- B. They were also crushed by poverty—v.9 **“I know....your poverty....”**
- C. They were crushed by prison—v.10—**“Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful even to the point of death and I will give you a crown of life.”**

II. SECOND, SYMRNA WAS A CONSISTENT CHURCH.

- A. Their consistency is evident in that Jesus had no word of rebuke for them.
- B. This church in spite of their persecution and poverty continued to consistently represent Jesus in a hostile environment.

III. THIRD, SYMRNA WAS A COMFORTED CHURCH.

- A. Jesus comforted them with his presence—v.9—**“I know your afflictions....”**
- B. Jesus comforted them with his person—v.8—**“These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. (Rev. 1:17-18).**
- C. Jesus comforted them with his promise.
 - 1. His first promise is the “crown of life”—10b.
 - 2. His second promise was to avoid the second death or hell—11.