

“Smyrna: Called to Suffer for Jesus”
Revelation 2:8-11

Revelation #5

The risen and exalted Christ ministers to His church at Smyrna

1. A Word of Assurance: “I know”

vv. 8-9

(1) How Jesus Presents Himself

*“These things says the First and the Last,
who was dead and came to life.”*

-1- The Eternal Sovereign One, who has determined the end from the beginning!

- cf. 1:8, 11, 17 Jesus is the Sovereign over all of history!

-2- The One who has conquered death!

“who was dead and came to life”

(2) Jesus Knows all about this church!

*“I know your works, tribulation, and poverty
(but you are rich); and the blasphemy of those
who say they are Jews but are not,
but are a synagogue of Satan.”*

-1- Their tribulation and poverty

-2- Their true wealth! “but rich you are!”

-3- The grievous wickedness of their persecutors

- blasphemy – reviling believers in Christ

2. A Word of Preparation: “Do not fear”

vv. 9-10

(1) The suffering soon to befall them

*“Do not fear any of those things
which you are about to suffer.”*

(2) Intense testing!

*“Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you
into prison, that you may be tested,
and you will have tribulation ten days.”*

-1- Satan active!

-2- The Divine purpose

-3- Testing – but of limited duration *“you will have tribulation ten days”*

- “Ten days” - Likely figurative for a period of trial – a literary allusion to Daniel (1:12-15)

- Release, or... martyrdom!

3. A Word to Sustain: “Be Faithful”

v. 10b

(1) An Exhortation to Endure

*“Be faithful until death,
and I will give you the crown of life.”*

- “keep on proving faithful unto death”

(2) The Reward for Enduring *“the crown of life”*

- The crown which is life

- received at the end of the “race”

4. A Word for All to Heed

v. 11

(1) The call to hear *“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”*

(2) The promise

“He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.”

- **The Condition:** *“He who overcomes”*

- Repeated in all of the seven letters

- Characteristic of all true saints

- Descriptive of the character of the Christian life

- **The Reward:** *“He...shall not be hurt by the second death.”*

- “shall not be hurt” (strong double negative)

- cf. 20:6, 14; 21:8

To be cast into the lake of fire is to experience the “second death”

To be delivered from the second death is to have eternal life. (cf. 21:7-8)