

✠ Midweek Bible Study

Exposition of Revelation

Letter to the Church at Smyrna

Do Not Fear What You Are About to Suffer

2:8-11

I. Address and Christ's Self-Revelation (2:8)

- A. Address: Smyrna

- B. Christ's Self-Revelation
 - 1. The First and the Last
 - 2. Who was dead and now lives

II. Commendations (9)

- A. I know your tribulation

- B. And your poverty but you are rich
 - 1. Poverty could have come to the Christians in Smyrna for several reasons.

 - 2. We are reminded of God's special relationship to the poor
Matt. 5:3; Lk. 6:20; James 2:5

- C. And the slander of those saying they are Jews
 - C². Those saying they are Jews
But are not, but are a synagogue of Satan
John 8:31-47

III. Encouragements (10)

- A. Do not fear what you are about to suffer
 - 1. One of our great exhortations in Scripture!
Matt. 10:28

 - 2. Remember the vv from Isaiah, tied to the First/Last
Cf. Isa 41:10; 44:2; 48:13

- B. Behold the devil is about to throw some of you in prison



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- C. In order for you to be put to the test
- D. And you will have tribulation for ten days
- E. Be faithful until death
Rev. 12:11 – even to the extent, the degree of death
- F. And I shall give to you the crown of life
James 1:12

IV. Call to hear and promise to the overcomer (11)

- A. The one having ears, he must hear what the Spirit says to the churches
- B. The one overcoming shall not be hurt by the second death
Second death – eternal punishment, lake of fire

Conclusion: The Church at Smyrna and its first century situation should capture our attention.

1. Slander and attack
2. Our current political situation which does not bode well for religious liberty.
3. What do Jesus' words to the church of Smyrna mean for us?
 - Do not fear what you are about to suffer.
 - And in the end, you get the crown of life... In the end, the Second Death does not hurt you. How important is that in the scope of history and eternity?

