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INTRODUCTION

1. Smyrna - on verge of persecution - yet speaks to us - [Rv 2:8-11](#)
2. Only Smyrna & Phil not called to repent: both persecuted

**1st: The Address and the Author - v8**

1. Smyrna - Emperor Cult; influential synagogue - Xnty not "religio licita"
02. Origin of church uncertain - Polycarp - martyred in 155 at 86yr old.
3. *angel* - heavenly & earthly dimensions of church's authority
4. Author = *the 1st & the last*: deity (1:8, 17) - Isa 44:6
5. *who was dead & has come to life*: [1:18](#) - promises *crown of life* (v10)

**2nd: The Evaluation of the Spiritual Condition of Smyrna - v9**

1. *I know*: omniscient One - *your*: entire church & each individual in church
2. *tribulation*: persistent pressure [economic & physical]
3. *poverty*: extreme poverty - guilds paganized - [Hb 10:32-34]. Refusal to swear allegiance to Caesar - Mordicai; Shadrach, Meshach, Abdnego.
4. *blasphemy of those who say they are Jews (but) are not but are a synagogue of Satan* - reality of Jewish opposition - issue is not ethnicity, but injustice - false accusations - [A 17:5-8](#) get Xns in legal trouble
  - i. *blasphemy* - slander. Jesus refutes claim *to be Jews* - [Jn 8:37-45](#)
  - ii. *synagogue of Satan*. Hebs warns. Satan = accuser - 1Jn 4:3

**3rd: Words of Praise or Reproof - v9**

1. *but you are rich*: yet material *poverty* - Mt 6:20-21; 2C 8:9; Jms 2:5
2. Contrast w/ Laodicea - says *I am rich* (3:17)

**4th: Words of Exhortation - v10**

1. *Do not fear what you are about to suffer*: Smyrna not removed from *tribulation* - A 14:22; Phil 1:29. Suffering w/ purpose.
2. *Do not fear*: more emphatic than 1:17 - do not fear a single thg.
3. *Behold* - imperative = pay attention

## SMYRNA: FAITHFUL TIL DEATH - Rev 2:8-11

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4. *the devil* = v9's *Satan*.
5. *is about to cast some of you into prison*: then banishment [Jn] or execution [Anitpas: v13 of Pergamum].
6. *so that you may be tested*: purpose clause - sov'ty of enthroned Lamb
  - i. *tested*: ["peiradzo"] ambivalent: test or temptation. Life is a *test*.
7. *you will have trib 10 days*: *trib* [v9]: pressure to conform to world
  - i. *10 days*: #10 = complete - relatively small number: brief time
8. *Be faithful* - cov promises; persevere in loyal allegiance to King Jesus
9. *until death* - at end of *10 day* period? Mt 10:28. "Father Along". Danger of Beast's persecution & Babylon's seduction.

### 5th: Command to Hear What the Spirit Says - v11a

1. The Spirit *says* = Scripture = words from the throne of the King.

### 6th: Promises to the Overcomer

1. v10 *I will give you* [who prove faithful til death] *the crown of life* - Jms 1:12. Crown given to victors: overcomers
2. v11b *will not be hurt by the 2nd death*: Rv 20:14; Lk 12:4-5
3. Death is inevitable. How will we die? 2:8-11.

### Reflections Regarding GCBC

1. What are we willing to suffer for Jesus' sake? Poverty - blasphemy - prison - death .
2. 1 Pt 5:8-11