

Study 4: Revelation 2:8-11

SMYRNA

A. The Characteristics of the City: The secular state

Smyrna was:

1. An ancient city – one of the oldest in the world.
2. A beautiful city – one of the most lovely in the world.
3. A vain city – claimed to be the ‘First City’.
4. A pagan city – the centre of Caesar worship.
5. A city with many Jews (see verse 9).

B. The Condition of the Church: The spiritual state

1. The DESCRIPTION of the Speaker

2:8. See 1:17-18

- > “*The First and the Last...*” (Smyrna claimed to be the ‘First City’)
- > “*...who was dead and is alive...*” No cancellation of suffering, but consolation in it.

2. The REVELATION

2:9

- > “*I know...*” used tenderly.

3. The COMMENDATION

2:9

- > Because of three things that He knows about their works.
 - i. Your tribulation. The pressure of persecution.
 - ii. Your poverty. Extreme poverty (yet they are rich!)
 - iii. The blasphemy, slander, reviling.

Compare this with the experience of the Lord Jesus Christ. HE says to them “*I KNOW...*”

4. The CONDEMNATION

- > None expressed! No complaints. Satisfied.

5. The CAUTION

2:10

- > Suffering, Prison, Persecution, Death.
- > An injunction to endure. “*Fear not ... be faithful!*”

6. The EXPECTATION of reward for the 'Overcomer'

2:10-11

> Do not be afraid of losing your life, for I will give you THE Crown of Life!

> The Overcomer will not be hurt by the second death.

That is, the eternal, spiritual death which is final separation from God.
