

WHAT CHURCHES  
REALLY NEED

*LETTERS FROM JESUS TO SEVEN CHURCHES*

*Scripture Reading*

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REVELATION 2:8–11

*Scripture Reading*

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REVELATION 2:8–11

REVELATION 3:7–13

# THE SECOND & SECOND-TO-LAST LETTERS

## *REVELATION 2–3*

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1. Tri-County, let's receive the encouragement of Jesus to be faithful and never fear the future (2:8–11).

# JESUS ENCOURAGES US WITH...

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1. His identity.

“Thus says the LORD,  
the King of Israel and his Redeemer,  
the LORD of hosts:  
‘I am the first and I am the last;  
besides me there is no god.’”

— Isaiah 44:6; 41:4; 48:12

# JESUS ENCOURAGES US WITH...

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1. His identity.
2. His victory.

# JESUS ENCOURAGES US WITH...

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1. His identity.
2. His victory.
3. His awareness.



# JESUS ENCOURAGES US WITH...

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1. His identity.
2. His victory.
3. His awareness.
4. His values.

# JESUS ENCOURAGES US WITH...

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1. His identity.
2. His victory.
3. His awareness.
4. His values.
5. His simple counsel.

# JESUS ENCOURAGES US WITH...

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1. His identity.
2. His victory.
3. His awareness.
4. His values.
5. His simple counsel.
6. His sovereignty.

# JESUS ENCOURAGES US WITH...

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1. His identity.
2. His victory.
3. His awareness.
4. His values.
5. His simple counsel.
6. His sovereignty.
7. His promises.

# SMYRNA IN THE NEXT GENERATION

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- Ignatius, pastor of Antioch in Syria, to the church in Smyrna (around 110)

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- Ignatius, pastor of Antioch in Syria, to the church in Smyrna (around 110)
- Ignatius to Polycarp, the pastor of the church in Smyrna (around 110)

“Wait expectantly for the one who is above time:  
the Eternal, the Invisible,  
who for our sake became visible;  
the Intangible, the Unsuffering,  
who for our sake suffered,  
who for our sake endured in every way”

— *The letter of Ignatius to Polycarp, the pastor of the church in Smyrna*



# SMYRNA IN THE NEXT GENERATION

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- Ignatius, pastor of Antioch in Syria, to the church in Smyrna (around 110)
- Ignatius to Polycarp, the pastor of the church in Smyrna (around 110)
- Polycarp to the church in Philippi (around 110)

# SMYRNA IN THE NEXT GENERATION

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- Ignatius, pastor of Antioch in Syria, to the church in Smyrna (around 110)
- Ignatius to Polycarp, the pastor of the church in Smyrna (around 110)
- Polycarp to the church in Philippi (around 110)
- The church in Smyrna to the church in Philomelium (around 155)—aka “The Martyrdom of Polycarp”

“For eighty-six years I have been his servant,  
and he has done me no wrong. How  
can I blaspheme my King  
who saved me?”

— *The Church in Smyrna*, “The Martyrdom of Polycarp”

“We will never be able either to abandon the Christ who suffered for the salvation of the whole world of those who are saved, the blameless on behalf of sinners, or to worship anyone else. For we worship this one, who is the Son of God, but the martyrs we love as disciples and imitators of the Lord.”

— *The Church in Smyrna*, “The Martyrdom of Polycarp”

“We will never be able either to abandon the Christ who suffered for the salvation of the whole world of those who are saved, the blameless on behalf of sinners, or to worship anyone else. For we worship this one, who is the Son of God, but the martyrs we love as disciples and imitators of the Lord.”

“Polycarp...was the twelfth person martyred in Smyrna.... Now he rejoices with the apostles and all the righteous, and glorifies the almighty God and Father, and blesses our Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of our souls....”

— *The Church in Smyrna*, “The Martyrdom of Polycarp”

# THE SECOND & SECOND-TO-LAST LETTERS

## *REVELATION 2–3*

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1. Tri-County, let's receive the encouragement of Jesus to be faithful and never fear the future (2:8–11).
2. Tri-County, let's receive the encouragement of Jesus to hold fast until he comes (3:7–13).

# JESUS ENCOURAGES US:

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1. You'll be vindicated (verse 9).

## JESUS ENCOURAGES US:

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1. You'll be vindicated (verse 9).
2. You'll be protected (verse 10).



## JESUS ENCOURAGES US:

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1. You'll be vindicated (verse 9).
2. You'll be protected (verse 10).
3. You'll belong forever to God (verse 12).