

EDGEMONT BIBLE CHURCH

PASTOR DOUGLAS A WHITE

“BEING A RESTORED HUMAN”



“JESUS SPEAKS TO CHURCHES”

REVELATION 2:8-11; ACTS 20:17-34

I. THE FIRST AND THE LAST WHO WAS DEAD AND CAME TO LIFE

A. Written by John to the angel of that church; angel means messenger; they are to minister to the saints Heb 1:13-14; they bring messages to God’s people

B. Jesus is

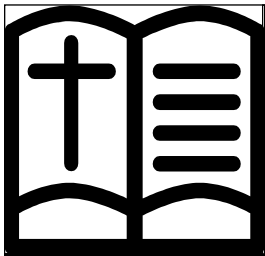
- 1. The beginning of all things, the first; He is the end of all things, the last*
- 2. The One who became dead but came to life*
- 3. What greater authority exists in the universe?*

C. Jesus, the High Priest, is caring for the lamps by trimming the useless parts, fixing the structural problems (areas in need of repentance) and refilling them with fresh oil (Holy Spirit)

II. THE CHURCH AT SMYRNA

A. Smyrna, the city

- 1. Wealthy, city state, competing with Ephesus for the best Roman city state in Asia*
- 2. Birthplace of Homer, the Greek poet*
- 3. Cultural center with great theater, temples to Zeus, Cybele and Tiberius and his mother Julia*
- 4. Celebrated for its schools of medicine and science and it’s beautiful buildings*
- 5. 100,000+ people called Smyrna home; a large and active Jewish population*



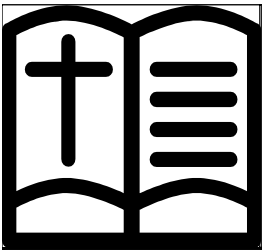
6. Great natural harbor; today it is Izmir, Turkey
7. It had a very active and dedicated cult of emperor worship there and was committed fully to the state as supreme
8. The Jewish population enjoyed a committed relationship to the state and was very opposed to belief in Christ;
9. Many Jews and Gentiles alike were followers of Christ; it is probable they were following the festivals of Israel as Messianic Jews

III. COMMENDATION AND WARNING

- A. It was a church in poverty, in troubles, yet Jesus commends them for being rich. He knew their works (they were active and not dead)
- B. They knew the difference in being truly Jewish and being phonies; remember the setting of their day!
- C. They were going to suffer persecution, perhaps even martyrdom; it would be intense but short
- D. Synagogue of Satan: those who deny Christ, who claim moral and spiritual superiority to believers, identify them as enemies of the state and then coerce the state to destroy them: i.e. Sadducees
Martyrdom came not directly for the faith but for opposing the state, opposing community standards, failure to conform to emperor worship and the rituals of state

Romans 2:25-29; John 8:42-44; 1 John 3:10-12

OVERCOMERS: Eat at the Tree of Life and will not be hurt by the second death Revelation 20:6, 11-15



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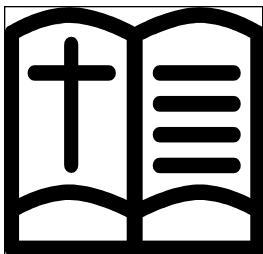
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