

"Faithful Unto Death"

THE CHURCH AT SMYRNA

REVELATION 2 : 8 - 11

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. Pastor Joe's personal commentary is in brackets and modifying words underlined with dots. You can find this passage in your Pew Bible on page 1192.

REVIEW FROM LAST WEEK'S MESSAGE:

- At Ephesus, there was "One Thing Missing".
- To their credit, they were a serving, sacrificing, steadfast and separated church.
- To their discredit, they had "left their first love"—they did not love God as they had before.
- Our Lesson: We must never let our love for God grow cold.
- Jesus Christ is coming again to rescue those who believe in Him.



1. CHURCH—The Church in Smyrna.

Revelation 2:8, NIV84 -⁸ *"To the angel of the church in Smyrna write... ["Smyrna" means "bitter" and relates to Myrrh—its fragrance is produced when the spice is crushed; cf., Is 60:0.]*

2. CONFIRMATION—Jesus is eternal and alive.

Revelation 2:8, NIV84 -⁸ *"To the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again."*

3. COMMENDATION—Their pain is temporary; their riches are eternal.

Courageous • Committed—"Faithful unto death"

Revelation 2:9, NIV84 -⁹ *I know your afflictions [Gk. θλίψις, *thlipsis*, meaning *tribulation* (NAS)], denotes "crushing pressure" or "persecution for one's faith." and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan [lit., adversary].*

4. COMPLAINT—There is NONE!

5. COMMAND—"Do not be afraid" and "Be faithful unto death."

Revelation 2:10, NIV84 -¹⁰ *Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.*

A. Do not be _____. "Do not be afraid" - v. 10a

B. Be _____ unto death.
"Be faithful, even to the point of death" - v. 10b

C. Keep the _____ in the hard times to come.
Poverty • Persecution • Prison
"Fear nothing in the things you're about to suffer...stay their believing." - v. 10a, c

6. COMFORT—I am coming for those "faithful unto death."

Revelation 2:11, NIV84 -¹¹ *He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death [See quotes below].*

"The 'Second Death' is the eternal doom of the unbeliever. 'What is the second death?' At the end of the Millennium, the unbeliever will be resurrected to stand before the Lord at the Great White Throne Judgment. There, his/her failure to believe on the Lord and their refusal to accept God's payment for his/her sins will condemn him/her to outer darkness (Revelation 20:6). However, for those who, like the church at Smyrna, stay true, the second death will have no effect. The Smyrneans are reminded that to die through human wrath is small compared with suffering the eternal judgment of God."
- Source: Jon Courson's Application Commentary

"Those who are born once, die twice; those who are born twice, die once."
- Evangelist E. V. Hill



**WE MUST NEVER LET OUR
FAITH IN GOD WAIVER!**

ANSWERS TO "FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH" MESSAGE

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A. Afraid

B. Faithful

C. Faith