

## SMYRNA: THE SUFFERING CHURCH (Revelation 2:8-11)

\* 1 Peter 3:14-18

### I. The THINGS Which You HAVE SEEN (Revelation 1)

### II. The THINGS Which ARE (Revelation 2-3)

\* What is the significance of these 7 churches?

#### A. Ephesus: The Church That Left Its First Love (2:1-7)

#### B. Smyrna: The \_\_\_\_\_ Church (2:8-11)

1. The **Church** ... "*and to the angel of the \_\_\_\_\_ at Smyrna write*" (2:8a)

\* Where is this church & what is its significance?

2. The **Critic** is ... \_\_\_\_\_ "*Write these things says the \_\_\_\_\_ & the \_\_\_\_\_*" (2:8b)

a. Jesus Christ is referred to here as "the First & the Last" speaking of His eternal control of \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

b. Jesus Christ is further described as "He which was \_\_\_\_\_ and is \_\_\_\_\_ again", referring to His \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ through Calvary

\* Why was this significant to the Smyrna Christians?

3. The **Criticism**... there is \_\_\_\_\_ given to this church!

4. The **Comments** made... "I \_\_\_\_\_"

a. their \_\_\_\_\_ .... "*...your works*" (2:9a)

b. their \_\_\_\_\_ .... "*your tribulation*" (2:9b)

c. Their suffering resulted in extreme \_\_\_\_\_ for these believers—this poverty meant extreme \_\_\_\_\_ destitution here at Smyrna (2:9c)

d. But Christ said they were \_\_\_\_\_ (2:9d)

e. Their suffering also took the form of verbal \_\_\_\_\_ by way of blasphemy,  
which is \_\_\_\_\_

\* Who was the source of this persecution? (2:9)

\* Who else?

5. The **Commands** given to heed include...

a. \_\_\_\_\_ those things you are about to suffer!

\* Who was the *ultimate source* of their suffering? (2:10)

\* *What* was about to happen to some of them?

\* What *purpose* would this serve?

\* What was the duration of this testing?

\* What are some promises they could claim for this time?

b. \_\_\_\_\_ unto death

\* What would be their reward?

6. The **Concluding** encouragements to remember...

a. Encouragement to the \_\_\_\_\_ by Christ (2:11a)

b. Encouragement to the \_\_\_\_\_ by Christ (2:11b)

\* What does this mean to you?