

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)

A. Ephesus: The Church With The Fatal Flaw (2:1-7)

B. Smyrna: The _____ Church (2:8-11)

- What are some reasons for suffering in this life?

1. The **Church** “*and to the angel of the _____ at Smyrna write*” (2:7)

- Where is this church & what is it’s significance?

2. The **Correspondent**... “*Write these things says the _____ & the _____*...” (2:8a)

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 _____ & _____ on Calvary

- Why was this significant to the Smyrna Christians?

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

4. The **Comments** made... “I _____”

a. He knew of their _____... “*your works*” (2:9a)

b. He knew of their _____... “*your tribulation*” (2:9b)

c. This suffering resulted in extreme “_____” for these believers—this meant extreme _____ destitution at Smyrna. (2:9c)

d. But Christ said they were _____ speaking. (2:9d)

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

- What was the source of this persecution? (2:9)... who else?

5. The **Commands** given to heed include.... (2:10)

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. _____ until death!

- What was to be the extent of their faithfulness?
- What was the accompanying promise they were to claim for their suffering?
- What is this a reference to?

6. The **Concluding Encouragements** to remember:

a. Encouragement to the *individual* by Christ (2:11a)

b. Encouragement to the *overcomer* by Christ (2:11b)