



Smyrna – Revelation 2:8-11

The Poor and Persecuted Church

Pastor Adam Hall ⌘ Dryden First Baptist Church ⌘ Oct 2, 2022

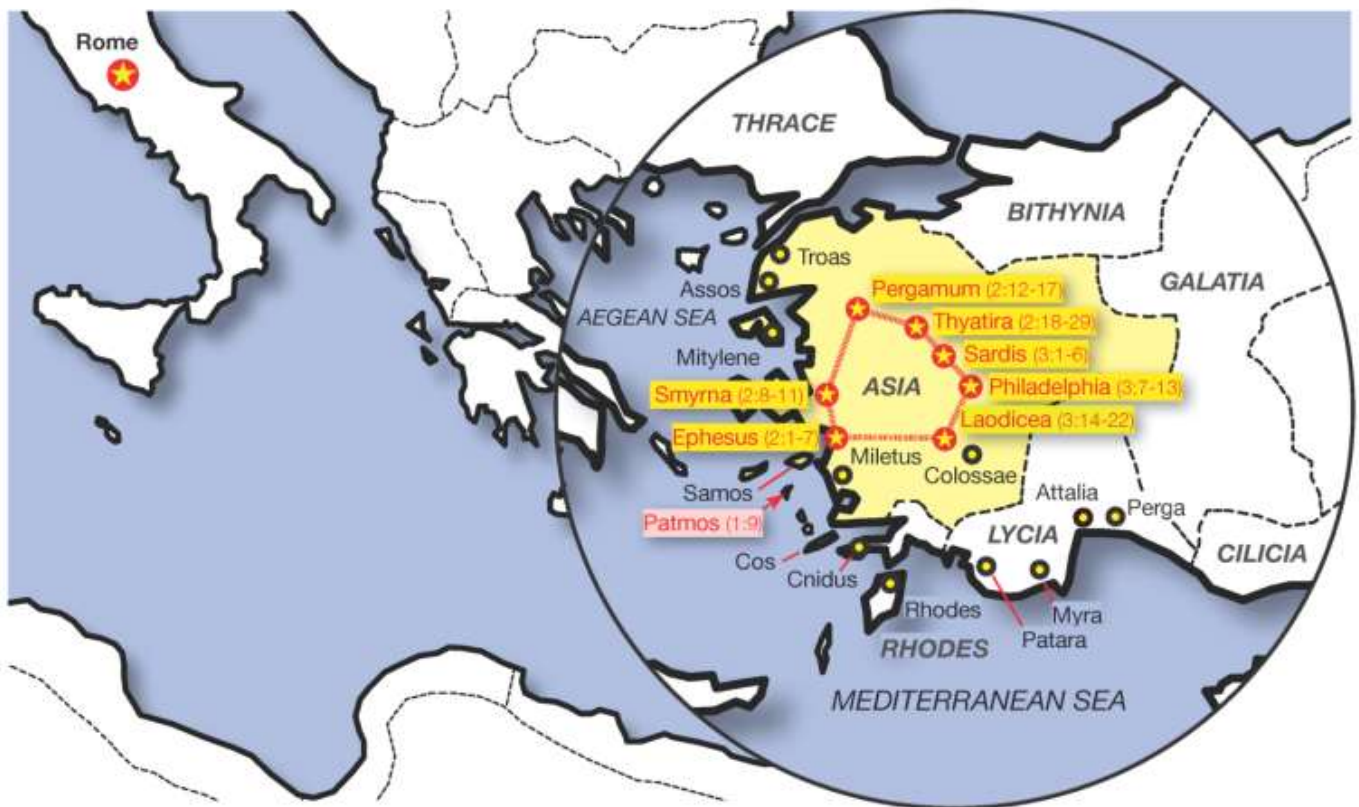
Revelation 2:8-11 ESV

⁸ “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: ‘The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life.

⁹ “‘I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰ Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. ¹¹ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.’

REVELATION: ROME & THE SEVEN CHURCHES

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Introduction and Background

- hear the title of this informative news article, “Don’t Envy the Super-Rich, They are Miserable”
- in this article the author Robert Frank says:

“A new study co-founded by the Gates Foundation, however, portrays the ultra-rich as lost souls burdened by the fears, worries and family distortions of too much money.

According to an article in the Atlantic, “the respondents turn out to be a generally dissatisfied lot, whose money has contributed to deep anxieties involving love, work and family. Indeed they are frequently dissatisfied even with their sizeable fortunes. Most of them do not consider themselves financially secure; for that, they say, they would require on average one- quarter more wealth than they currently possess.”

- wow! who would have thought that millions of dollars would bring so much _____ to someone’s life?

- now I know what some people are thinking when they hear about people not being happy when they are rich

- they might be thinking, “why don’t these rich people give me their money and then I can see how miserable they are”

- the article leads us to consider these Biblical _____

1) covetousness is _____

2) _____ does not ultimately satisfy

3) only the _____ satisfies

- what is amazing to see in Revelation 2:8-11, is Christ’s _____ of the Smyrna church

- when society thinks of the rich (the millionaires and the billionaires), we are tempted to think that they have it made in the shade

- when society thinks of poor people, we think they must have a horrible life

- but what does Jesus say about this _____ at Smyrna?

Revelation 2:9 "I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich)

- Jesus says that the Smyrna church might be _____ in the eyes of the residents of Smyrna but in the eyes of Christ they are _____

- they might not have a decked out house now but they will have at the 2nd coming of Christ, like the old hymn says, they will have their mansion over the hilltop

- they might not have _____ of money, but they will have a priceless _____ of eternal life

- the book of _____ was written by John, the _____ disciple of Jesus Christ, on the Island of Patmos

- John was exiled to the Island of _____ because of His preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ (Revelation 1:9)

- the _____ of Smyrna was a community that gloried in being devoted to the Roman government

- it was 60 KMs to the North of _____

- Smyrna was a _____ city, therefore it had the same kind diversity and _____ that the city of Ephesus had

- the city also boasted several _____ to several of the Emperors of Rome

- but the city of Smyrna was starting to _____ Christians

- in the city of Smyrna unless you were Jewish you were _____ to offer incense and declare your allegiance to Caesar

- if you did not follow the government protocol for the _____ of Caesar there were drastic consequences for your _____ of reverence

- because _____ were not considered Jewish, many Christians were fed to lions and burnt alive because they _____ worship Caesar

- this is the reality that the church at Smyrna faced as they sought to be _____ to the Lord

- the book of Revelation was written to 7 churches and each address has the same format

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1) Church _____ is Addressed | 2) _____ is Described |
| 3) Christ _____ the Church | 4) Christ _____ the Church |
| 5) Christ _____ the Church | 6) Christ _____ the Church |
| 7) Christ Gives _____ to the Church | |

- we will break down today's passage as follows:

1) (2:8) Christ Described

2) (2:9) Christ Knows

3) (2:10) Christ Exhorts

4) (2:11) Christ Promises

1) (2:8) Christ Described

(2:8) "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write:

- when you read Revelation chapters 2-3 you will see that each church has an _____
- there are ____ churches and there are 7 _____ that are connected to the churches
- the angel is the representative for that _____ and receives the _____ for that church

- _____ is described in two _____ in Revelation 2:8

The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life

1) Jesus is _____ because He is the "first and the _____"

- this means that Jesus has _____ existed and Jesus will always exist
- if we could travel a million years in the _____ Jesus would still be there reigning and ruling
- if we could travel a million years in the _____ Jesus would still be there reigning and ruling
- Jesus is the _____ Son of God
- I was recently asked a _____ by a high school student who saw my laptop message that says "Want to talk about _____"
- he was curious to know how _____ Jesus was
- I explained to him that Jesus is _____, and that means that Jesus has always _____
- I asked him how old he thought _____ was and he thought 2000 years old

- _____ Jesus was born of the virgin Mary, He existed with the Father in eternity past

- Jesus talks about how He is _____ in the gospel of John

John 8:56-58 Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." ⁵⁷ So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" ⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I _____."

- the _____ who respond to Jesus are upset because they know that Jesus is claiming to be _____
- the Jews recognize that Jesus is not only claiming to be _____ but also _____, so they pick up stones to _____ Jesus in John 8:59

- Jesus is _____ and through Jesus, the Father _____ the universe
- Jesus is eternal and He is a _____ Lord who _____ over all things

2) Jesus is _____ because He died and rose again

- _____ is the one who died and came to life
- John is describing the very basic _____ of the gospel here
- Jesus is _____ and His gospel is _____

- the _____ and the resurrection of the Jesus are the foundation of the _____ news of Jesus Christ as Paul states in 1 Corinthians _____

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 For I delivered to you as of _____ importance what I also received: that Christ _____ for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was _____, that he was _____ on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

- the _____ for the death of Jesus was so that Jesus could _____ the punishment of God for _____ in place of the people of God

- Jesus _____ the reason that He came to the earth was to _____ on the Cross

Mark 8:31 And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must _____ many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days _____ again.

- Jesus accomplished _____ for His people by taking their sin and their punishment that they _____

- in exchange Jesus gives to His people a _____ record before the Father

- when the Father looks at His people who have _____ in Christ, the Father no longer sees the sin, He _____ sees Jesus Christ's perfection and _____

- Jesus also came to life _____

- God the Father _____ Jesus Christ from the dead

- this amazing miracle of the _____ of God reveals to us that those who are in Christ have the _____ of heaven

- Jesus was the first _____ from the dead as Paul says in Colossians 1:18

- because of the resurrection of Jesus, we now have hope of escaping the 2nd death which is eternity _____ from God's pleasing presence

- Jesus is _____ and _____

2) (2:9) Christ Knows

(2:9) "I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

- in Revelation 2:9, Jesus says "I _____"

- this _____ us one more time that Jesus is the Son of Man, who walks among the 7 golden _____ stands

- Jesus is in the _____ of His church and He knows His church

- the _____ of Christ is that He will _____ among His people!

- Jesus makes this promise clear to us in Matthew 18

Matthew 18:20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I _____ them."

- because Jesus is in the _____ of His church He knows three things

a) the tribulation of the Smyrna Church

- the city of Smyrna was particularly _____ on Christians

- it was in this _____ that the famous early church _____ named Polycarp was murdered

- this church had _____ through serious persecution like being burned alive and thrown into the den of lions to be eaten alive

- this was serious persecution against the _____

- but the Lord uses persecution in the _____ of the church to create a _____ appreciation for Jesus Christ and His _____

b) the _____ of the Smyrna Church

- although there was great prosperity in the city of Smyrna the church appears to be _____

- likely, this was because Christians were _____ by Roman culture and by Jewish culture

- Christians were _____ against because if you were a Christian in the early church, this could have prevented you from getting a job to _____ for your family

- but do you see what Jesus _____ about this church?

- although they might be _____ in the eyes of the world they were considered spiritually _____ in the eyes of Christ

- they are rich because of several _____ given to them by Christ in Revelation 2:10-11

c) the slander of the Smyrna church

- this church was being _____ by the Jews of the city of Smyrna or as John calls them, those who belong to the synagogue of _____

- there are _____ Biblical interpreters who are obsessed with race and woke culture

- they claim that John is being anti-Semitic because he calls the _____ in Smyrna the "synagogue of Satan"

- at face value this label could be considered a _____ comment from a Canadian culture perspective
- but we must remember that _____ himself was Jewish and of course His beloved Saviour was _____
- furthermore, this phrase “synagogue of Satan” was used in the Dead Sea Scrolls by the Jews to describe other _____ whom they thought were _____ being faithful to the Lord
- when we interpret the _____ we need to take off our North American _____ which influence how we see the world
- we need to try and _____ the Bible in light of the cultural _____ of 1st Century Judaism
- what John is really getting at is that there were Jews who were seeking to _____ the church and they were speaking _____ against Christians, which would be in line with the _____ of Satan
- we actually see much of the persecution against the early church was from _____ against fellow Jews
- remember it was the _____ who crucified the Lord Jesus Christ who was Jewish
- this persecution has nothing to do with _____ it had to do with a _____ between those who served Jesus Christ and those who did _____

3) (2:10) Christ Exhorts

(2:10) Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

- Jesus Christ gives them two commands
 - a) They are not to fear
 - they are called not to _____ the persecution they are about to _____
 - because these Christians in Smyrna _____ to worship the Emperor and declare that “Caesar is Lord”, they would have _____ serious trials from the state
 - often Christians would be put in _____ to be held until their execution
 - I know some of this sermon might seem like an over 18 movie because of the violence but this was the _____ of the Christians who lived in the city of Smyrna
 - these Christians were not to _____ those who could kill the _____
- Matthew 10:28** And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the _____. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in _____.

- these Christians were not to fear _____ itself
- they were to _____ to the hope and _____ that Jesus offered them
- they were to _____ that this life is not all there is, if you are a follower of Christ
- this promise is a _____ hope that is given to the people of God

James 1:12 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the _____ of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

b) They are to be faithful

- they were commanded to live obedient _____ to Jesus Christ
- _____fulness to the Lord was what was required of the Smyrna church _____ in the midst of trials and tribulations
- this is what we call the perseverance of the _____
- this means that if you are _____ by Christ you continue to _____ Christ
- it does not mean that you will be perfect but by God's grace you can _____ to follow Christ and continue with Christ

- the _____ to those who remain faithful to the Lord is that they will be given a _____ of life
- if the church in Smyrna was _____ to the Lord, they would receive the crown of life
- the people in Smyrna would have known all about crowns for _____ because of the Roman games
- when an athlete competed and was victorious they were _____ a crown to show that they were winners
- the _____ Christian is given a crown too by _____
- the crown of life reveals that they have _____ life in Christ

- Paul talked about the _____ that he would soon receive from Jesus Christ by grace

2 Timothy 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will _____ to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

4) (2:11) Christ Promises

(2:11) He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.'

- just like with the other 6 churches, the church of _____ is to hear what the Spirit of God is saying
- the Word of God _____ our attention
- do you treat the word of God with _____ ?
- do you treat the word of God with _____ ?
- Jesus gives a final _____ to those Christians who conquer

- the word "conquer" is the Greek word "Nike"
 - those who are victorious, those who persevere with the Lord till the end, will not be _____ by the 2nd death
 - this verse begs the question of us, "what is the 2nd _____?"
 - we all know what the _____ death is, this is when we die and our _____ on earth ceases
 - the 2nd _____ is mentioned later on in Revelation
- Revelation 20:6** Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.
- Revelation 20:14** Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.
- Revelation 21:8** But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

- the 2nd death refers to the eternal _____ of God given to those _____ of Jesus Christ
- those that are in Jesus Christ will have no _____ of hell and punishment of God because Christ has _____ that punishment in their place

Application

1) Look to the Beauty of Christ

- we are going to look at the _____ of Christ in _____ address to the 7 churches in Revelation
- in this section we are again reminded of the _____ of Jesus Christ

a) Jesus is eternal

- in the book of Revelation this _____ is sometimes stated in a different way
- Revelation 1:8** "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to _____, the Almighty."
- Jesus is the A to Z, this means that He _____ has existed and has been ruling and reigning and will always _____, ruling and reigning
 - Jesus Christ is _____ over the universe, the world, the church, and our salvation
 - Jesus is even sovereign over what we would think are the _____ things in our life
 - when life _____ out of control and confusing, we can find _____ in the sovereign plan of Jesus Christ
 - we might not _____ what is going on or what has gone on but we can find _____ in Christ alone

- b) Jesus is _____ and He shows His grace by His death and resurrection
- we can have confidence in the _____ and _____ of Jesus Christ
 - we can be washed _____ from the _____ of our sin
 - we can have our sin record _____ away and be _____ from the judgment of God
 - if _____ do not know the Lord and have not _____ the grace of Jesus Christ
 - know for sure that your _____ has put your _____ of fellowship with God
 - you are _____ in harmony with the Lord
 - _____ this is why Jesus Christ has come
 - Jesus did not come to be served or to judge but to serve and _____ the world by means of His work upon the cross
 - look to Christ and let _____ of your sin
 - _____ your sins to God and He will _____ you from all your sin through Jesus Christ

2) Are you Rich or Poor in the Eyes of Christ?

a) Are you content?

- _____ you are in Jesus Christ today, the church at Smyrna can teach you some important truths about _____ in a very discontented world
- let us _____ again what is going on in this church
- this church is described as _____
- this church is _____ persecution and several from the church could be facing the death penalty by means that are not pleasant
- but Jesus says they are _____
- they are _____ because of two verses mentioned here

Revelation 2:10 I will give you the _____ of life.

Revelation 2:11 The one who _____ will not be hurt by the second death.

- if you are _____ in the eyes of the Lord you might not see your final wealth for a while
- but just hear again how the _____ are discontent
- a millionaire wishes that he has \$200,000 more dollars
- a billionaire says that "a billion dollars is not what is used to be"
- this does not sound like a life of ease or contentment
- Augustine was right, "our hearts are restless until they find their _____ in thee"
- he was saying that we ought to find our _____ and contentment in Jesus Christ

- if we try and find joy and contentment in _____ of the earth we will always end up empty and dissatisfied

b) are you laying up treasures on _____ or in heaven?

- hear what Jesus says about this topic

Matthew 6:19-20 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in _____, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

- Jesus gives to His people a _____ of life and allows them to _____ the 2nd death all because of His _____

- if you are in Christ do you _____ this truth of the hope of heaven?

- do you _____ forward to that day when Christ will give you this crown because you have finished your race?

Today, Christ Followers are invited to gather
at the communion table to remember
Christ's sacrifice and praise Him for His
defeat of sin and death.



Coming UP

Oct 2 Revelation 2:8-11 – Smyrna

- Communion/Benevolent Offering

Oct 9 Revelation 2:12-17 - Pergamum

Oct 16 Revelation 2:18-29 - Thyatira

Oct 23 Revelation 3:1-6 - Sardis

Oct 30 Revelation 3:7-13 - Philadelphia

Nov 6 Revelation 3:14-22 – Laodicea

Ladies Fellowship and Bible Study

Am I Important to God?

*A Bible study looking at the
character of Sarah.*

Bring a friend...

Saturday, October 22

@ 1:00 - 3:00pm

At DFBC - Ebenezer Hall

Light refreshments.

