



## The Church Faithful Unto Death Smyrna

### Two Distinctions of Revelation

1. It's the only book in the Bible with a special blessing (Rev 1:3)
2. It's the only book in the Bible with a divinely inspired outline (Rev 1:19)

### The Letters to the 7 Churches have at least four levels of meaning and application

1. Local
2. Universal
3. Personal
4. Prophetic

### Smyrna the City

1. Very ancient city founded in 3000BC – it's one of the oldest cities still occupied and functioning
2. The City is known today as Izmir and it's the third largest city in Turkey
3. It was greatly developed by the Greeks during the days of Alexander the great
4. It was for centuries considered to be the most beautiful City in the World
5. During the Roman Kingdom period it was a hub for trade and had one of the greatest harbors in the world which made it very wealthy and important
6. Smyrna was known for its wide array of beautiful temples dedicated to most of the Greek Gods – these temples were well known as the “crown” of Smyrna
7. In 196BC the City readily accepted the concept of Caesar worship

### Smyrna the Church

1. Smyrna was a poor church to the point of destitution
2. The word Smyrna means “myrrh” – myrrh was a primary substance used for embalming purposes
  - a. Myrrh only yields its fragrance when it is crushed
3. Smyrna suffered great persecution

4. **Revelation 2:8-11(ESV)** 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.
5. Jesus Complements the Church
  - a. Jesus is the first and the last, the one who died and came to life
  - b. They had a great misconception of themselves thinking they were poor, weak and just barley hanging on
    - i. I know your **TRIBULATION AND POVERTY**
      1. But **YOU ARE RICH**
    - ii. I know who **THE FALSE HERETICS** are don't worry **I'VE GOT YOUR BACK**
    - iii. Have no fear, you'll **RECEIVE THE CROWN OF LIFE**
6. Jesus Criticizes the Church
  - a. Has **NO CRITICISM** for this church
7. Jesus Commands the Church
  - a. Be **FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH**
    - i. There is not the slightest indication that they would escape the suffering

### Personal Application...

**Can we say that we will be faithful even in the most trying and difficult circumstances?  
He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches!**