

“Jesus’ Assessment of the Church at Smyrna” 8/05/18

Revelation 2:8-11

Sermon Series- “Jesus’ Message to the Seven Churches of Revelation”

Economic – City of great wealth & trade. Claimed to be the ‘first of Asia Minor’.

Political – Free city and *assize* town where Roman governors dispensed justice.

Religious – First and greatest in Caesar worship. “Caesar is Lord.” 23AD contest

- A. The letter to the church contains the CORRESPONDENT’S TITLE
(Rev 1:17-18; John 10:28-29; Phil 1:21-23; Isaiah 44:6; Hebrews 2:14)

“And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.” John 10:28-29

- B. The letter to the church contains Jesus’ COMMENDATION
He knows their works:

1) TRIBULATION- this words means pressure and can refer to anything

2) POVERTY- this word means *destitute*. Versus *Penia* which means a person has to work for a living. (They are RICH)

“For you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven.” Hebrews 10:34

3) BLASPHEMY- John 5:23; Romans 2:28-29; John 8:44; **1 Pet 2:23**

- C. The letter to the church does not contain any CRITICISM
(1 Cor 10:13; see also Rev 3:7-13 where there is none to Philadelphia)

- D. The letter to the church contains Jesus’ COUNSEL
(Rev 2:10; **Matt 10:28-33**; 7:13-14; James 1:1-12; 2 Cor 11:23-33; 4:8-10)

1) Do Not Fear; 2) Be Faithful unto Death

3) Crown of life (2 Tim 4:8; 1 Pet 5:4; 1 Cor 9:25; 1 Thess 2:19)

- E. The letter to the church contains Jesus’ CLOSURE
(“Second Death”; Revelation 2:11; 20:6, 14; 21:8; 1 John 5:5)

“He who is born once dies twice; he who is born twice dies once”

Going Deeper God wants you to examine your faithfulness? Will you live an uncompromising life for Him?

“They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him.” Titus 1:16

Our Vision- Striving to be Disciples who make Disciples