



# LIVING FAITHFUL NO MATTER THE COST

AN EXAMINATION OF THE CHURCH OF SMYRNA  
REV 2:8-11

modern day  
**TURKEY**



Pergamos



Thyatira



Smyrna



Sardis



Philadelphia



Ephesus



Laodicea





# LAODICEA

- Wretched
- Miserable
- Poor
- Blind
- Naked



# PERGAMUM

- Held fast Jesus Name
- Did not deny my faith (even when Antipas was killed)
- Courageous in the face of death
- However, Neutral vs Action



# EPHESUS

- Active workers in the Kingdom
- They tested those who claimed to be apostles
- Persevered and refused to tolerate false teaching
- Did not lose heart during their tribulations
- However, they left their first love



# THE CHURCH OF SMYRNA

- 40 miles north of Ephesus
- 2nd in size only to Ephesus
- One of the headquarters for the Concillia
- First City / Crown of Smyrna (Mt Pagos)



# THE CHURCH OF SMYRNA





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Revelation 2:8 “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, 'These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:”

- Revelation 1:11 “saying, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,” and,<sup>[fn]</sup> “What you see, write in a book and send *it* to the seven churches which are in Asia:<sup>[fn]</sup> to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.””
- Isaiah 41:4 “Who has performed and done *it*, Calling the generations from the beginning? ‘I, the LORD, am the first; And with the last I *am* He.’ ”

# THE CHURCH OF SMYRNA

Revelation 2:9 “I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and [I know] the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but [are] a synagogue of Satan”

- Proverbs 5:21 “For the ways of a man are before the eyes of the LORD, And He watches all his paths.”
- Poverty (ptōcheia) means the condition of one destitute of riches and abundance, extreme or deep poverty
- Romans 2:28-29 “For he is not a Jew who [is one] outwardly, nor [is] circumcision that which [is] outward in the flesh; 29 but [he is] a Jew who [is one] inwardly; and circumcision [is that] of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise [is] not from men but from God.”

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- John 8:44 “You are of [your] father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own [resources], for he is a liar and the father of it.”
- Hebrews 10:32-34 “But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings: 33 partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated; 34 for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven.”

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- Matthew 6:20-21 “but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”
- James 2:5 “Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world [to be] rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?”

# THE CHURCH OF SMYRNA

Revelation 2:10 “Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw [some] of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

- How does Jesus know?
  - Job 1 Satan comes before God
  - Luke 22:31 “And the Lord said,<sup>[fn]</sup> “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift *you* as wheat.”
  - God will allow these tests

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- Revelation 12:9 “So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, **who deceives the whole world**; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”
- 1 Peter 5:8-9 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.”

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- Romans 5:1-5 “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only [that], but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

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- Polycarp (A.D. 69-156)
- Arrested and brought before the governor.
- “Eighty and six years have I served Christ and He has done me nothing but good; how then could I curse Him, my Lord and Savior?” He was then burned alive



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- James 1:12 “Blessed *is* the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.”
- John 17:2 ““as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.”

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- 1 Corinthians 9:25 “And everyone who competes [for the prize] is temperate in all things. Now they [do it] to obtain a perishable crown, but we [for] an imperishable [crown].”
- 2 Timothy 4:8 “Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”
- Hebrews 9:27 “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,”

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Revelation 2:11 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.”

- Revelation 21:8 “But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”
- Revelation 20:6 “Blessed and holy [is] he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.”

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