

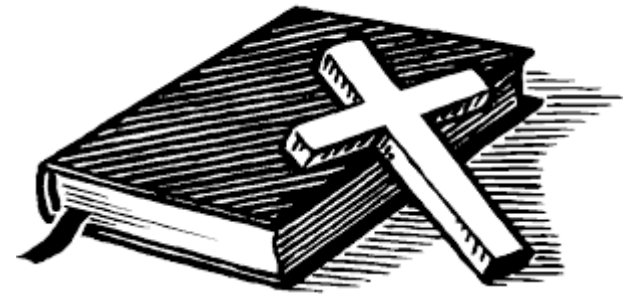


The Poor-Rich Church

MESSAGE TO THE
CHURCH OF SMYRNA

- REVELATION 2:8-11

Revelation 2:8-11 (NASB)



⁸ “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write:

The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life, says this:

⁹ ‘I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy by those who say 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 cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until 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. He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.’

Message



1. THE COMMAND TO WRITE

“And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write:”

Rev. 2:8a

2. CHRIST'S SELF DESIGNATION

“The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life, says this:”

Rev. 2:8b

Also:

- Rev. 1:17-18,
- Isa. 41:4; 44:6; 48:12,
- Rev. 21:6; 22:13

3. THE CHURCH'S CONDITION

“I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.”

Rev. 2:9

- They are persecuted
- They are economically poor
- They are spiritually rich



**Martyrdom of Polycarp
Bishop of Smyrna
155 AD**

4. EXHORTATION

“Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

Rev. 2:10

5. PROMISES TO OVERCOMERS

“Be faithful until 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. He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.”

Rev. 2:10b-11

- Reward of Eternal life
- Protection from the Second Death (see Rev. 20:14; 21:8)

Life Truths:

- THE TRIALS WE EXPERIENCE ARE GOD'S INSTRUMENTS TO TEST OUR LOYALTY TO HIM.
- THOSE WHO ARE BORN ONLY ONCE WILL DIE TWICE. THOSE WHO ARE BORN TWICE WILL DIE ONCE.