

Message Notes & Thoughts

Passage: Revelation 2:8 -11

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Letters... *Stand*

Message Outline ...

Smyrna is the second church mentioned in Jesus' messages to the 7 churches found in the early chapters of Revelation. Located 35 miles north of Ephesus, it was a port city and thus this made it important through the years. It is often referred to as 'the suffering' or 'the persecuted' church.

Facts about Smyrna –

Built in 1000 BC, destroyed around 600 BC and re-constructed around 300 BC. Truly a church that was 'dead' and came back to life.

Meaning of its name

In Ionic Greek, Smyrna means 'Myrrh' which is a spice known throughout the region. What are the characteristics of myrrh?

The meaning of 'Thilipsis' – tribulation.

Jesus' message to the church at Smyrna:

When facing suffering:

- Do not *Fear*
- Be *Faithful*

Questions for Growth continued...

* Jesus gave his identity to the church at Smyrna as the 'first and the last.' Compare this statement with some other scriptures.

Revelation 1:17, Revelation 22:13, Isaiah 41:4, Isaiah 44:6, Isaiah 48:12

What do all of these passages have in common and what do they say about who Jesus is?

* In your mind, why does tribulation NOT seem a part of the Christian experience? What things do we identify with suffering for Christ that really are not?

* The passage draws our attention to the word "test." Being tested can be a good thing. Look at Hebrews 11:17. How have you been tested?

* Physical persecution is foreign to us here in North America. From this message today, what are some ways we can 'get ready' for this possibility? Why should we not fear it? In what ways can we become focused on our relationship with Christ?

* What part of this message had the greatest impact on you. Why?

* If you have not heard this message, you can find it at <https://ridgelinecc.org/messages/>