

## *Seven Churches Of Asia Series:*

# **Smyrna: The Persecuted Church**

**Rev. 2:8-11**

Introduction:

- A. Smyrna:
  - 1. Beautiful city about 50 miles north of Ephesus.
  - 2. Birthplace of Homer.
  - 3. Home of Polycarp.
- B. Let us notice the various parts of this letter:

Discussion:

### **I. The Description of Christ In This Letter (vv. 1,2)**

- A. "The First."
  - 1. Origin of all things. (John 1:1; 8:58; Col. 1:15-17).
  - 2. Should be first with us. (Matt. 6:33).
- B. "The Last." (Cf. Rev. 22:13).
- C. "Which was dead, and is alive."
  - 1. Had been through what they were no experiencing.
  - 2. Death, Burial and Resurrection fundamental to gospel. (1 Cor. 15:1-4).
    - a. Died for our sins. (Rom. 5:8).
    - b. Arose for our justification. (Rom. 4:25).
- D. "I know." (Prov. 15:3).

### **II. The Condition Of The Church At Smyrna.**

- A. Her good points:
  - 1. Works. (cf. Rev. 20:12).
  - 2. Tribulations for Christ. (2 Tim. 3:12; Matt. 5:11,12)
    - a. Inflicted by Synagogue of Satan. (cf. Rom. 2:28-29; 2 Cor. 11:13-15).
    - b. Poverty may have been due to persecution - trade guilds.
  - 3. Spiritually rich but materially poor.
    - a. Jesus had experienced this. (Matt. 8:20; 2 Cor. 8:9).
    - b. Treasures in heaven. (Matt. 6:19).
- B. No bad points.

### **III. The Advice To The Church At Smyrna.**

- A. "Do not fear..." (cf. Matt. 10:28).
    - 1. "Fear not" is found many times in Bible.
    - 2. Many reasons for a Christian not to be overly fearful.
    - 3. Some fear is natural and normal. (cf. 1 Cor. 2:3; 2 Cor. 7:5)
  - B. "Be Faithful..." (v. 10,11).
    - 1. Receive "crown of life." – A victory crown.
    - 2. Not hurt by second death. (cf. Rev. 20:14,15).
- Note: Two Births and Two Deaths.

Conclusion:

- 1. A church with no condemnation or threat.
- 2. Would this be the case if the Lord were writing to us.
- 3. What about you personally.