

# LETTERS TO THE CHURCH

## Part 3 - Smyrna



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Rev. 2:8 And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write;  
These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is  
alive;

Rev. 2:9 I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but  
thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say  
they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

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- Christ begins His address to the pastor of the church at Smyrna by saying that He understands the conditions they are living in. Christ chose to live without earthly riches as well. *James 2:5 Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?*
- In Smyrna, to be economically prosperous one must worship the emperor or suffer economic sanctions. Christ turned down Satan's offer for earthly riches and prestige, so He understood exactly how this church felt. *Luke 4:7-8 If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.*
- Christ encouraged them by saying even though you are poor financially, you are rich spiritually. This statement alludes to the fact that some may never have earthly riches, but in Christ you can be spiritually rich and bless others. *Acts 3:6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.*



# LIES OF PROSPERITY GOSPEL

**1Tim. 6:10** For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

- God wants us all rich.
- Gain is godliness.
- Poverty is a curse.
- Material things are rewards.
- Lack or financial struggle means that God is not pleased with you.
- Sowing money translates to spiritual blessings.
- What gets on the 'head' gets on the 'body'.
- Lack of money is a lack of faith.
- Striving for riches means you are diligent.
- Name it, claim it and you will receive it.
- Pray for finances and God will send it to you.
- You can give your way out of poverty.



- The blasphemy of them which say they are Jews and are not came from the Jewish sects that claimed to be the seed of Abraham but denied Jesus as the son of God. *John 8:37 I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you. I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.*
- The Bible says they are of the synagogue of Satan, which suggests their allegiance was to Satan. Today many that claim to be chosen ones are of the synagogue of Satan as well because they have pledged their allegiance to erroneous doctrinal beliefs, supremacist genealogies, false gods through fraternities and sororities, secret societies, and organizations that worship other gods. *Ezek. 8:12 Then said he unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen what the ancients of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the chambers of his imagery? for they say, The LORD seeth us not; the LORD hath forsaken the earth.*
- Jesus clearly states that they are not true Jews. The true Jews are those that accept Jesus Christ as their Lord. No man can come to the Father except by Him! *Col. 3:11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.*



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**Rev. 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.**

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- After Christ commends the church with understanding, He then prophesies their sufferings saying that the devil will try them. They would be cast into prison, which would result in death. *2Tim. 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*
- This church would face persecution from ten Roman emperors (10 days) and this persecution would end through the merging of the church with pagan gods by Constantine. Christ tells them to remain faithful through these periods. *Mark 13:13 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.*
- Jesus tells them that if they remain faithful, they will receive a crown of life. The ultimate reward for martyrdom is to be saved by God, bearing a crown that represents the giving of one's life for the sake of Christ! *James 1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.*



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The persecution of Smyrna is representative of the persecution many are facing today. In America, while we enjoy various pleasures, plentifulness, and earthly achievements, we do not fully understand the persecution of the church of Smyrna. In other lands, this type of persecution is real and many are martyred daily for the cause of Christ. Many that are listening to this very message are hidden away in caves, underground, or in exile because of their desire to hear truth and hold on to the faith that saved them! They are poor financially and have limited access to resources that we have in abundance. They search for batteries just to play recordings of sermons. They search for Bibles just to get a glimpse of truth in the midst of their persecution. They run for their lives just to maintain their beliefs.

But Christ encourages believers facing these types of persecutions to fear not. Do not be afraid even unto death. To live is Christ, but to die is gain. Though we face minor persecution here in our nation, we must never forget those that fight for the right to name the name of Jesus in their countries. Praise be to God that He would grant us the luxuries and material things that we possess, because there are many that do not have and will not have them. Their gift however will be granted to them on that great day when Christ comes to settle the score. They will be rewarded with their crown at the judgment of the second death. When those that persecuted them will be cast down, we that were faithful will be exonerated.

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*Rev. 2:1 | He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.*

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