
SMYRNA: THE SUFFERING CHURCH

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Introduction:

The city of Smyrna received its name from its chief export - _____

_____ is a gum like resin taken from a shrubby tree and was harvested much like maple syrup is today. The word itself means "bitter." A fitting name for a church that experienced the bitter time of suffering that the Smyrnan church experienced.

There are no words of complain against this church from the Lord Jesus, only words of commendation and comfort.

I. The _____ of This Church (2:9-10)

A. A _____ Church

1. In their _____. (vs. 9)

"Tribulation" =

2. In their _____. (vs. 10) – "ten days"

Three views:

- a. Rome's ten separate attempts to wipe out Christianity
- b. Tenth persecution under the Emperor Diocletian
- c. Ten literal days of persecution and trial

B. A _____ Church

"Poverty" =

C. A _____ Church

“Blasphemy” =

II. The _____ for This Church (2:8)

A. Christ _____ all things – *“the first and the last”*

B. Christ has _____ all things – *“which was dead and is alive”*

III. The _____ of This Church (2:9)

(but thou art _____) – 2:9

2 Corinthians 6:10 | *As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.*

“There is a poverty which is riches and there is a wealth which is poverty.”

IV. The _____ to This Church (2:10-11)

“Faithful” =

Our faithfulness to Christ comes from our being convinced of His faithfulness to us.

“Crown of Life” =

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.*