

EDGEMONT BIBLE CHURCH

PASTOR DOUGLAS A WHITE

***“BEING A RESTORED HUMAN”***



***“JESUS SPEAKS TO CHURCHES”***

***REVELATION 2:8-11; ACTS 20:17-34***

***I. THE FIRST AND THE LAST WHO WAS DEAD AND CAME TO LIFE***

*A. Written by John to the angel of that church; angel means messenger; they are to minister to the saints Heb 1:13-14; they bring messages to God’s people*

*B. Jesus is*

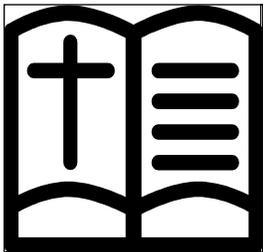
- 1. The beginning of all things, the first; He is the end of all things, the last*
- 2. The One who became dead but came to life*
- 3. What greater authority exists in the universe?*

*C. Jesus, the High Priest, is caring for the lamps by trimming the useless parts, fixing the structural problems (areas in need of repentance) and refilling them with fresh oil (Holy Spirit)*

***II. THE CHURCH AT SMYRNA***

*A. Smyrna, the city*

- 1. Wealthy, city state, competing with Ephesus for the best Roman city state in Asia*
- 2. Birthplace of Homer, the Greek poet*
- 3. Cultural center with great theater, temples to Zeus, Cybele and Tiberius and his mother Julia*
- 4. Celebrated for its schools of medicine and science and it’s beautiful buildings*
- 5. 100,000+ people called Smyrna home; a large and active Jewish population*



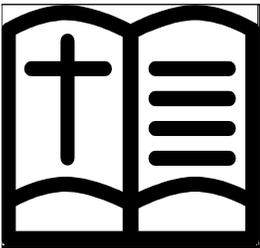
6. *Great natural harbor; today it is Izmir, Turkey*
7. *It had a very active and dedicated cult of emperor worship there and was committed fully to the state as supreme*
8. *The Jewish population enjoyed a committed relationship to the state and was very opposed to belief in Christ;*
9. *Many Jews and Gentiles alike were followers of Christ; it is probable they were following the festivals of Israel as Messianic Jews*

### **III. COMMENDATION AND WARNING**

- A. *It was a church in poverty, in troubles, yet Jesus commends them for being rich. He knew their works (they were active and not dead)*
- B. *They knew the difference in being truly Jewish and being phonies; remember the setting of their day!*
- C. *They were going to suffer persecution, perhaps even martyrdom; it would be intense but short*
- D. *Synagogue of Satan: those who deny Christ, who claim moral and spiritual superiority to believers, identify them as enemies of the state and then coerce the state to destroy them: i.e. Sadducees  
Martyrdom came not directly for the faith but for opposing the state, opposing community standards, failure to conform to emperor worship and the rituals of state*

*Romans 2:25-29; John 8:42-44; 1 John 3:10-12*

*OVERCOMERS: Eat at the Tree of Life and will not be hurt by the second death Revelation 20:6, 11-15*



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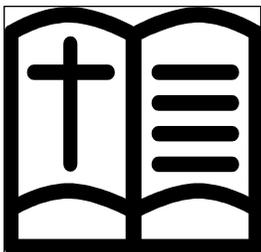
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