

**The Letters...**

**To Seven Churches**

## According to Revelation 1:1-2

**From:** This letter is the Revelation of Christ Jesus!!

**Purpose:** God gave to show his (Christ's) servants what must soon take place

**How:** He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.

**To:** 4a John to the seven churches that are in Asia...

# The Letters to Seven Churches in Asia Minor (Modern Turkey)

## Revelation 2-3

1. Ephesus
2. Smyrna
3. Pergamum
4. Thyatira
5. Sardis
6. Philadelphia
7. Laodicea



# About Smyrna:

- \* One of the most important cities in Asia Minor
- \* about 35-40 miles to North from Ephesus
- \* Natural Harbor made the city a commercial center
- \* Large and beautiful city filled with riches and splendor
- \* called “First of Asia”- clusters of buildings called “the crown of Smyrna”



Picture from <https://drivethruhistory.com/ancient-smyrna/>  
Article by Titus Kenndy Dec. 24, 2018

## About Smyrna:

- \* Center for the cult of emperor worship-  
under Nero (AD 54-68) and Domitian (AD 81-96)  
who persecuted early church Christians.
- \* After the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD, Smyrna was a  
favorite place for Jews who became powerful in the city by  
contributing 10,000 denarii to the city
- \*Smyrna still exists today and is called Izmir-  
Currently 3rd largest city and one of its largest ports

## **Revelation 2:8**

**And to the angel (or Messenger) of the church in Smyrna write:**

**These are the words of the first and the last, who was dead and came to life**

**Jesus opens with**

**I know...**

# What did the church of Smyrna do right?

- \* **I know** your affliction and your poverty, even though you are rich.
- \* **I know** the slander on the part of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogogue of Satan.



# **Encouraging words from Smyrna (v.10)**

## **1. Do not be afraid**

**- will suffer persecution for 10 days.**

## **2. Be Faithful even to the point of death**

**– crown of life will be given and will not taste the 2<sup>nd</sup> death**

**To Smyrna, Jesus was described as the first and the last, who was dead and came to life.**



**“86 years I have served Christ,  
and He never did me any wrong.  
How can I blaspheme my King  
who saved me?”**

**155 AD Polycarp (69-155) was Martyred**

Public Domain: (Original text :  
The Life of S. Polycarp Bishop of Smyrna) from Wikipedia

## **Revelation 2:11**

**<sup>11</sup> Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. Whoever conquers will not be harmed by the second death.**

# Compare to City with Church

- \* Rich and beautiful city vs. poor church
- \* Roman pagan and emperor worship vs. Christians worshiping Christ as the Son of God.
- \* Faithful to Rome vs. faithful to God in Christ through the Holy Spirit
- \* Crown of Smyrna vs. Crown of life

**The church continues to be faithful  
to Christ Jesus even to death...**

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