

Dear Church - Smyrna

Letters to the Seven Churches of Revelation Revelation 2:8-11

Presented by
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To the Church at Smyrna

Observations from Revelation 2:8-11

- Credentials (v. 8) – “The First and the Last, the one who was dead and came to life.”
 - Jesus re-states His authority to make these assessments and declarations.
- Commendation (v. 9) – “But you are rich.”
 - Jesus praises their faithfulness in face of suffering and loss.
- Charge (v. 10) – “Don’t be afraid...be faithful.”
 - Jesus exposes the enemy’s scheme and exhorts the church to remain faithful.
- Coronation (vv. 10-11) – “I will give you the crown of life...never harmed by the second death.”
 - Jesus promises that the suffering in this life can’t touch what waits for us in the next.

The Value of Faith

Jesus’ words to the church in Smyrna remind us of two important truths about faith:

- While it doesn’t guarantee earthly ease, it does promise an eternal reward.
- Those who have it can lose everything but still be rich. (2 Corinthians 8:9; 6:10, James 2:5)

Key Question: Are you rich or are you restless?

Discussion Questions:

1. In verse 8, Jesus introduces Himself as “the First and the Last, the one who was dead and came to life.” Why do you think this reminder of His authority and victory over death was especially important for the suffering church in Smyrna?
2. Jesus tells the church, “I know your affliction and poverty—yet you are rich” (v. 9). How does this challenge our usual definition of success, security, and wealth? In what ways can someone “have nothing” and still be spiritually rich?
3. In verse 10, Jesus says, “Don’t be afraid...be faithful.” What fears most often threaten our faithfulness today? How can remembering Christ’s promises help us remain steady in seasons of suffering, uncertainty, or loss?
4. The key question asks, “Are you rich or are you restless?” How can we experience true spiritual contentment in Christ and resist a restless pursuit of comfort, control, or worldly success? Where do you see this tension in your own life?