

Week of April 26, 2020

Remain Faithful – Smyrna

Revelation 2:8-11

I) Background Information V.8

- Write to angel (messenger) of church.
- Smyrna: 35miles N. of Ephesus, Aegean coast (Izmir today). Port city, about 100,000 population then. Nicknamed “Reborn City” as destroyed 600BC, rebuilt 290BC.
- From: He who is the first & last, who died & now alive again. Same wording as 1:17-18.

II) An Afflicted Church V.9-10

- Church described 2 ways: afflicted & impoverished.
- Affliction: *pressure, tribulation, persecution, burden, trouble*. Christians will have trouble in this world (Matthew 24:9; John 15:18-21; 16:1-3; 2 Corinthians 4:17; 2 Timothy 3:12)
- Enemy seeks to pressure believers to be ineffective or fall away.
- Smyrna church slandered by others misinterpreting their ways. Cannibalism (consume body/blood of Jesus); “Love Feasts” (twist saying orgies); Atheists (not worship Roman gods); Anti-family (faith creates divide, Matthew 10:34-36).
- Impoverished: Smyrna noted for prosperity. Church pressed by culture into financial hardship (business withheld).
- Jesus says are wealthy (true treasure Matthew 6:19-21, 33).
- Slanderers are synagogue of Satan (accuser, deceiver).
- **V.10** Jesus tells no longer fear suffering to come.
- Persecuted 10 days (various views, definitive end).
- Can anticipate affliction still today.
- Jesus’ message– REMAIN FAITHFUL unto death.
- *Illustration of church father, Polycarp, bishop at Smyrna.*

III) Closing Encouragement V.11

- Hear what Spirit is saying: Overcome worldly issues, endure hardships, remain faithful, will never be hurt by second death.

Read John 3 – need to be born again. Believe Jesus as God’s Son, trust Him or will remain condemned in sin.