



SMYRNA: THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

January 28, 2024 // Revelation 2:8-11 // Dr. Ron Jones

“And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life, says this: ⁹ ‘I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the slander by those who say they are Jews, and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.¹⁰ Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. ¹¹ The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.”

REVELATION 2:8-11 ESV

“Eighty and six years I have served him, and he has done me no wrong. How can I blaspheme my King who saved me?” POLYCARP, BISHOP OF SMYRNA

Today, the church in Smyrna is essentially _____ with small numbers and _____.

The growing bias against _____ is obvious and ominous.

Lessons from the Persecuted Church

1. Do not be _____ by persecution.

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. 1 PETER 4:12-13 ESV

Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. 2 TIMOTHY 3:12 ESV

"A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you." JOHN 15:20; 16:33

2. Do not _____ persecution.

"Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days." REVELATION 2:10 ESV

3. Remain _____ to Jesus, no matter the _____.

"Be faithful unto death." REVELATION 2:10 ESV

4. Reach for your _____.

"... and I will give you the crown of life." REVELATION 2:10 ESV

Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. REVELATION 22:14-15 ESV