

THE MESSAGES OF THE GLORIFIED CHRIST  
TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES

C. THE MESSAGE TO SMYRNA: THE PERSECUTED CHURCH (Rev. 2:8-11)

Introduction: All through history the church has been persecuted. Smyrna is the picture of just what a church under persecution should be like.

1. The Recipients (v8)
  - a. The minister of the church - Polycarp
  - b. The church - Smyrna
2. The Speaker (v8)
  - a. Jesus Christ - the first and the last:
    - (1) All mankind will answer to Him (Heb. 9:27).
    - (2) He is always present with the believer (Jn 8:58; 17:24; Rom. 8:28, 35-39).
  - b. Jesus Christ - the One who was dead and is alive again:
    - (Jn 3:16; 5:24; 6:40; 1 Cor. 10:13; 2 Tim. 4:18; Heb. 2:14-15).
3. The Commendation (v9)
  - a. The church bore up under terrible tribulation (Mt. 10:17-18; 24:9; Lk. 21:12; Jn 15:20-21; 1 Pet. 4:12,13).
  - b. The church bore up under poverty (2 Cor. 6:10; 8:9).
  - c. The church was spiritually wealthy (Mt. 6:20; 19:21; Phil. 3:8; 4:19; Jas. 2:5).
  - d. The church bore up under all kinds of slander (Mt. 10:32-33; 8:38; 1 Jn 4:1-3; 15).
4. The Counsel (v10)
  - a. God was allowing the church to be persecuted.
  - b. They were not to fear but be faithful (Mt. 10:30-31; Phil. 1:28-29; Deut. 31:6).
5. The Promise (v10-11)
  - a. A crown of life (Jn. 3:14-15; 10:28; 17:3; 1 Jn. 2:25).
  - b. Delivered from the second death (Rev. 20:14; 21:8).

CONCLUSION:

1. There is to be a second death.
2. By believing in Jesus Christ one may escape the second death.
  - (Rom. 8:16-17; 2 Cor. 4:7; 2 Tim. 2:10).