

Revelation: Letters to the Churches Ep. 3
The Church At Smyrna
Revelation 2:8-11

Vs. 8 “To the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. ⁹I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown. ¹¹Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death.

These are the words... Each letter to a church begins with a declaration of the nature and character of God.

Vs. 8 These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again.

Ears to Hear: Vs. 11 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death.

- The letter to the church at Smyrna reminds them to pay attention to the totality of the message to the churches.

The characteristics of the church At Smyrna:

Vs. 9 I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

- **Afflictions and Poverty yet Rich**
- **Slandered by those in Satan’s charge**

Jesus calling and commission to the church at Sardis

Vs. 10 **Do not be afraid** of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, **the devil will put some of you in prison to test you**, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. **Be faithful**, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown.

- **Don’t be afraid**
- **Be faithful**

Understanding the Victor’s Crown and the Second Death

Small Group Questions

1. Each letter begins with a description of whom Jesus is. What is this one trying to say in vs. 8 and what does it say to you personally.
2. Having “ears to hear” is a big thing in the entirety of the bible. What does it mean for us today to have ears that hear?
3. This is a church willing to face slander and persecution. What would slander and persecution against the church in today’s society look like?
4. It says Satan has the power to put people in prison. Do you feel that this type of power still exists for Satan today? Do you even believe in Satan?
5. Jesus charges the church to be faithful and not afraid. How often if at all are you afraid of what is happening in the world and what does faithfulness look like in a modern society?