

**CrossRoads Community Church**  
**Sermon Summary Sheet, Week of June 26, 2022**  
**“THE LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES...A Study of the Book of Revelation”**  
**Part 2: “Smyrna – The Persecuted Church,” Revelation 2: 8-11**

**INTRODUCTION:** *In Revelation chapter 2, the Lord Jesus Christ gives special messages to the seven churches in Asia Minor. But He intended for all the churches to read these messages and benefit from them. We’re to benefit from them as well, as we examine our own hearts and apply these shared truths to ourselves. Today we look at the Church of Smyrna-the Persecuted Church.*

**FORMAT OF THE SEVEN LETTERS**

**JESUS’ QUALIFICATIONS**  
**JESUS’ COMMENDATIONS**  
**JESUS’ CRITIQUE**

**APPROACH TO THE SEVEN LETTERS**

**LITERAL** Specific, Historical Truths  
**UNIVERSAL** General, Timeless Truths  
**PROPHETIC** Symbolic, Eschatological Truths (The Persecuted Church – 100-313 A.D.)

**1. FORTHRIGHT TESTIMONY**

*“And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, ‘These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life: “I know your works,...””* Revelation 2: 8,9a

- *The Savior - John 11: 25-26*
- *Smyrna (from “Myrrh”) - Matthew 2:11*
- *The Saints - Romans 6: 5-6*

**2. FACING TRIBULATION**

*“I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.”* Revelation 2: 9

- *Clearly - Acts 14:2,22*
- *Confidently - 1 Peter 4: 12-14*
- *Continually (unto death) - 2 Timothy 3: 11-12*

**3. FUTURE TRUTH**

*“Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life... He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.”* Revelation 2: 10b, 11b

- *The Crown of Life - James 1:12*
- *Overcoming the Second Death - Revelation 21: 7-8*

**CONCLUSION**

*Although suffering, including imprisonment and even martyrdom, would be the lot of many in Smyrna, as well as in countless other churches through the centuries, the gracious word from Christ is: “Fear not!” Not even death can separate us from the love of God in Christ (Romans 8: 38-39) and the martyr’s promised “crown of life” (James 1:12) will far overbalance the testing we are called to endure in this life.*

**Henry Morris**