

Letter to SMYRNA

Small,
Powerless,
Persecuted,
Poor,

Yet Rich thru their SUFFERING.

Map of the 7 Churches of Asia

Revelation 2 & 3



3. **PERGAMUM**
Compromising Church

2. **SMYRNA**
Persecuted Church

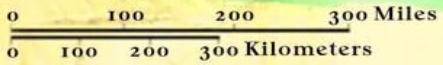
1. **EPHESUS**
Loveless Church

4. **THYATIRA**
Corrupt Church

5. **SARDIS**
Dead Church

6. **PHILADELPHIA**
Faithful Church

7. **LAODICEA**
Lukewarm Church









Oswald Chambers wrote..

“In the history of the Christian church, the tendency has been to evade being identified with the sufferings of Jesus Christ; [people] have sought to procure the carrying out of God’s order by a shortcut of their own. God’s way **is always the way of suffering**, the way of the “long, long trail.”

My Utmost for His Highest, Classic ed. (Grand Rapids: Discovery House, 2017), November 5.

Revelations 2: 8-11

“ 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, 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.

Do not fear any of those things which you are **about to suffer**. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be **tested**, and you will have tribulations ten days.

Be faithful until death, and I will give you the **crown of life**.

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the **second death**.”

“Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer.”



Polycarp - Pastor martyr at age 86

“I bless you for considering me worthy of this day and hours.....may I be received as a rich and acceptable sacrifice,,,,I praise and glorify YOU!
May you be glorified ..both now and forever.”

v10

Indeed the devil is about to throw some of you into prison,
that you may be tested, and you have tribulations ten days.

The Promise to those that endure..

“...be faithful on to death and I will give you the Crown of Life!”

..endure

Be faithful on to death, and I will give you the crown of life.

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.

Dwell on this...

Jesus says “do not fear for what you are about to face”

He does not say “do not fear, because I will deliver you from the persecution” he just says “ DO NOT FEAR”.....”Be faithful unto DEATH and I will give you the Crown of Life!”

2023 Christian advocacy group, Open Doors reports..

360 Million Christians experienced,

“High levels of persecution and discrimination.”

“This was **20 Million higher** than 2021.”

Jack Phillips



Florist Baronelle Stutzman



John Stott

Do you want to be holy? Then you will suffer.

The Cross of Christ

How we can combat persecution...

1. Love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us (Matt. 5:44)
2. Love our neighbor as ourselves (Matt. 10:16)
3. Be shrewd (Matt. 10:16)
4. Pray for our leaders to do what is right before God. (1 Tim. 2:1-4)
5. Use the courts to fight for our rights (Acts 25:10-11)
6. Recover within your churches that Christ is the head of the Church, **not** Caesar (Col. 1:18)
7. Christians and Organizations should work to inoculate themselves from cultural norms (Rom. 12:2)
8. Never, ever live by lies. (Prov. 23:23)
9. Be confident and trust God. He is in Control (Psalm 118:6)

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[Voice of the Martyrs](https://www.voiceofthemartyrs.org)