

# Smyrna - Lacerated Yet Longsuffering

## Revelation 2:8-11

**Introduction:** The second church to receive a message from the risen Christ was Smyrna, a church which suffered from deep persecutions by the Romans.

### A. Christ's Appearance to the Church

Christ is pictured as One Who has overcome death and is alive.

### B. Characteristics of the City

Smyrna means *myrrh*. The historical city experienced repeated destruction from invaders and earthquakes.

### C. Characteristics of the Church

The church suffered both persecutions and poverty. It can be compared both with Israel under Egyptian Bondage and with Israel under Roman persecution by Caesar. Prophetically this church represents the Persecuted Church from 100 AD to 312 AD.

### D. Compliment to the Church

Christ states that this church is one of faithfulness, suffering, and poverty.

### E. Complaint to the Church

Christ does not issue a complaint against Smyrna. However, He does acknowledge the Judaizers' attempts to make Christianity an extension of Judaism.

### F. Counsel to the Church

Christ counsels the church not to fear and to remain faithful unto death.

### G. Covenant with the Church

Christ promises to give a crown of life to all who overcome. In addition, He promises to spare the overcomers from the second death.



*Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God – Romans 10:17*