

Today's Theme

“Evaluation - Smyrna”

Series Title

“The Future - From Jesus”

Part 5 September 25, 2022

Church 1 Ephesus:

We must _____ of Gods love - To love Him _____!

1. Jesus takes *aim* at a *second* church.

(1) So *what* about Smyrna?

Rev 2:8 “To the angel of the .church in Smyrna write:

1. Smyrna was the *largest* city in Asia Minor.
2. 35 miles North of Ephesus.
3. The *political* center of the region.
4. The birthplace of *Homer* 750BC.

(2) Jesus is the one *bringing* this message.

Rev 2:8 These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again.

2. Jesus *commends* the folks at Smyrna.

(1) They're living under *pressure* in life.

Rev 2:9 I know your afflictions and your poverty . . .

(2) Yet - This church stays *faithful*.

Rev 2:9 . . . yet you are rich!

Jesus is telling us:

1. Rich = *Faithful*.
2. Rich = They *have* what *mattered*.
3. Rich = Knowing where we end up.
4. They were the rich poor church.

(3) Even facing *fake* Jews who *hated* the gospel.

Rev 2:9 I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

3. Jesus gives *counsel* to those suffering.

(1) Ultimately I will take *care* of you.

Rev 2:10 Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer . . .

(2) I know what's *coming* - Refuse *worry & fear*.

Rev 2:10 I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Don't worry or be afraid.

(3) He's coaching them/us to be *faithful till death*.

Rev 2:10 . . . Be faithful, even to the point of death,

(4) How? They *know* where they're *headed*.

Rev 2:10 and I will give you life as your victor's crown. James 1:12 Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

4. Jesus encourages us to *listen & follow*.

(1) Points to the *significance* of God's *words*.

Rev 2:11 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches

(2) Followers of Jesus *end up* being *safe forever*.

Rev 2:11 . . . The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death.

Church 1 Ephesus:

We must *know* of Gods love - To love Him *back*!

Church 2 Smyrna:

They were *rich* - Because they knew their *future*.