

# THE SEVEN LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES

THE LAST WORDS OF JESUS CHRIST TO HIS CHURCH UNTIL AND BEFORE HE RETURNS FOR US.

## REVELATION 2:8-11

Recording Number JHX-481 April 19, 2020

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

### **“MY DEAR SMYRNA, I’VE WRITTEN YOU A LETTER”**

The Calling and The Cry of Jesus Christ to His Bride the Church and to all who Desire to Live

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

The Church, End Times, Repentance, Revival, The Nation

Revelation 2:8-11

:8 “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: 9 “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. 10 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 tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. :11 “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.” ’

- Smyrna - located 35 miles north of Ephesus, • it was an ancient city dating back over 1000 b.c.
- Smyrna was a city that had been leveled by wars but was again rebuilt by general Lycemicus, one of the four generals that served Alexander the Great.
- He restored to it such greatness that the citizens of Smyrna boasted **“We once were dead, but now we live”**
- Smyrna was by far considered the most beautiful city in all of Asia minor.
- the design of the city was splendid, from the Mediterranean sea you would ascend up thru the city to mount Pagus where atop the mount were beautifully designed buildings that from a distance caused the mount of the city to take on the appearance of a great crown. The ‘*Smurfs*’ affectionately called the peak of that mount **“The Crown of Smyrna, The Crown of Life”**

## It Was the Birthplace of Homer.

it was in Smyrna where Emperor worship began, There roman emperors were first elevated as gods and the personification of those gods – Romans called them Caesars.

it was here in Smyrna where the crowds first proclaimed;  
“Caesar is Lord”

Today, **Smyrna** has been renamed by Islamic Invaders **Izmir**, in **Turkey**

And is Turkey's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest Metropolis

**Smyrna** got its name from its chief export, a balm-like spice or perfume that is extracted from a tree called **Myrrh**. This Balm or "Resin" hardens into a rock-like crystal.

## Perfumes / Medicine / Embalming Oil

**Myrrh** (Smyrna) was beaten and then crushed and when it was, out of it flowed a fragrant oil that was very costly and desirable.

*The Church would have had its start from either (1) Paul himself or (2) missionaries sent out from Paul while in Ephesus.*

### Acts 19:9

Paul reasoned with the people daily in the school of Tyrannus. :10 And this he continued for two years, so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

There are no negative words in the letter, there are no rebukes – only assurance and encouragement

This Special Teaching Series is in Light of Our Days,

**"How Do The Seven Churches Relate to Us in These Coming Days?"**

## And So The Letters to The **7** Churches

Are letters authored by Jesus Christ to His churches.

### Revelation 1:4

John, to the seven churches which are in Asia:

### Revelation 1:12

Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man stood..

### Revelation 1:20

The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches...

**"....And This is Most Significant in Biblical Typology"**

**When you think about a church, you've got to get your mind away** from a physical structure, the building, and into the reality of what a church is. A church is a gathering of people made up of the same spiritual DNA and what makes up that DNA determines the **individual's survivability**, which makes/determines a **churches survivability**.

IN FACT WE AS AMERICANS SHOULD BE ABLE TO GRASP THIS PERHAPS BETTER THAN SOME, WHY? BECAUSE ONE OF OUR NATIONAL MOTTO'S IS;  
"E'PLURIBUSUNUM" LATIN FOR "OUT OF MANY, ONE"

1 Corinthians 12:12-14

For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. 14 For in fact the body is not one member but many.

## MY DEAR SMYRNA I'VE WRITTEN YOU A LETTER

1.) To remind you of who **I AM** in your life vs.8

:8 "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:'

**Smyrna** grk: the root word is **Myrrh**, meaning = bitter or strong, pungent. depending upon **how** the **Myrrh** was treated determined its effect. If it was burnt it put out a fragrant aroma. If it was ingested it was bitter to the taste. If it was crushed it took a different aroma. If it was taken a little bit by mouth, it could be a healer.

**When Alexander the great was on his global conquest,** he came to Smyrna and while he was there he had a dream/a vision that the gods wanted Alexander to rebuild and rejuvenate this once glorious city. Alexander did just that and in doing so - - the city boasted a new motto "We once were dead, but we have come back to life."

### **Like Lightning Flashed the Connection**

:8 'These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:

Do you remember the birth of Jesus the Bible tells us.  
The Magi of Persia brought to Joseph and Mary gifts for the newborn King,  
Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh

Revelation 1:11a

Jesus said, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and,  
"What you see, write in a book..

And do you remember that at the death of Jesus the women prepared fragrant oils and perfumes that would've included Myrrh

## MY DEAR SMYRNA I'VE WRITTEN YOU A LETTER

2.) To remind you of what I know about your life vs.9

9 "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.

### The Omniscience of God.

(1) He knows about every act of love and kindness coming out of your life.

(2) He knows about every wrong that has been done against you in life.

He knows about the sickness in your life.

The word used here for poverty is abject poverty. poverty in the extreme. This is an unnatural poverty imposed upon a person by mistreatment, abuse, slavery, a targeted persecution.

C.S. Lewis, Oxford England, 1944

"Of all tyrannies, a tyranny sincerely exercised **for the good of its victims** may be the most oppressive. It would be better to live under robber barons than under omnipotent moral busybodies.

The robber baron's cruelty may sometimes sleep, his cupidity may at some point be satiated; **but those who torment us for our own good will torment us without end** for they do so with the approval of their own conscience.

( "But you are rich" says Jesus)

James 2:5

Listen, my beloved brethren:

Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith?

"The sparrow falling to the ground..." **Matthew 10:29**

"The hairs of your head..." **Luke 12:7**

"The anxieties of your life..." **Philippians 4:6**

"As a father pities his own children..." **Psalms 103:13**

"We are as dust..." **Psalms 103:14**

"If the flowers are here today and gone the next..." **Matthew 6:30**

We are the ones that determine who or what will rule us.

This is native to the human nature.

## MY DEAR SMYRNA I'VE WRITTEN YOU A LETTER

3.) To remind you of what I'm doing with your life vs.10

10a 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 tribulation ten days.

The 10 days most likely refers to the time period from when the first persecutions began under Nero in 54 A.D. Thru to the 10<sup>th</sup> wave of persecutions in 284 A.D. under the emperor Diocletian.

Watch This;  
Jesus says "Do not fear" = I see no need.  
Any of those things = I am aware of everything, anything.  
You are about to suffer = It is under My command  
Indeed, the devil is about to = I know what the devil is up to

**Suffer** grk: **pentho**, *pen'-tho*, to experience the sensation of pain or the direct assault of unnatural or unusual pain. to be inflicted or vexated by another with the intent to cripple, torture or be martyred.

## **Fear Can Be An Executioner**

( our days from a biblical prophetic view is foreknowledge )

<https://www.worldoil.com/news/2020/3/20/world-oil-analysis-research-shows-current-oil-price-collapse-near-record-proportions>

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2020-03-19/real-pandemic-danger-social-collapse>

<https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/complete-collapse-economies-ahead-africa-faces-virus-69982974>

### **"It's human of us to not cope well with pain and suffering.**

We can begin to understand why **the ungodly might suffer pain**. But we struggle with the reality **that godly people must suffer with pain also**. So what is the answer to this? The answer must be found In the doctrine of the Sovereignty of God."

### **We can only answer from the Scriptures, any other attempt**

to explain pain and suffering will carry us down a road that may wind up to be more painful than the suffering itself."

- Jack Hibbs

#### **2 Corinthians 12:7**

And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."

#### **Job 23:10**

But He knows the way that I take; When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold.

#### **Acts 9:15**

But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. 16 For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake."

THE CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES WILL NEVER BE THE SAME  
AND THAT'S A GOOD THING BECAUSE...

### What good things have come out of this worldwide crisis?

(1) the gospel going out worldwide. (2) millions are being saved. (3) Now every single church on earth that has a smart phone or tablet or ipad has exactly the same influence as any mega church ever had. (4) the simplicity of the gospel has become paramount.

THE CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES WILL NEVER BE THE SAME  
AND THAT TOO IS A GOOD THING BECAUSE..

### What other good things have come out of this crisis?

(1) there will be those who once attended church that will not be coming back. (2) church building projects have fallen alongside the road. (3) Peripheral events are no longer focus. (4) the age of the seeker friendly / feel good only church movement is dead. (5) the hour for the church to change her garments is now upon us. (6) She's changing her garments from looking cool and trendy to battle fatigues. (7) From wearing a mickey mouse hat to putting on the helmet of Salvation.

THE CHURCH IS AT THE EPICENTER OF THIS INVISIBLE WAR.

#### Ephesians 6:10-18

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. :14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints."

#### 1 Timothy 3:15

I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

THE CHURCH ON A COLLISION COURSE WITH THE SPIRIT OF THIS WORLD, THIS AGE –  
A SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST IS AFOOT

## MY DEAR SMYRNA I'VE WRITTEN YOU A LETTER

4.) To remind you of what I have for your life vs.10b

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

There is no doubt, life is brief. But there is also no doubt, that death is but for a moment.

## The Christians at Smyrna we're Appointed to Suffering.

James 1:12

Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

*The Lord has prepared for us "Crowns" that will display throughout eternity our particular witness on earth for Him.*

1 Peter 5:4

And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

Philippians 3:10-11

that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

## MY DEAR SMYRNA I'VE WRITTEN YOU A LETTER

5.) To remind you of what I promised you in life vs.11

:11 "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." '

### The Lightning Round

John 16:33

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

1 John 4:18

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

Psalms 94:19

In the multitude of my anxieties within me, Your comforts delight my soul.

2 Timothy 1:7

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Psalms 23:4

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

Proverbs 12:25

Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, But a good word makes it glad.

Matthew 6:31-34

“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow,

1 Peter 5:6-7

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

### HOW TO CAST YOUR CARE UPON HIM

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oxzR0RKRWtQ>

Isaiah 35:4 NLT

Say to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, and do not fear, for your God is coming

Mark 6:45-51

Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while He sent the multitude away. 46 And when He had sent them away, He departed to the mountain to pray. 47 Now when evening came, the boat was in the middle of the sea; and He was alone on the land. 48 Then He saw them straining at rowing, for the wind was against them. Now about the fourth watch of the night (3a. / 6a.) He came to them, walking on the sea, and would have passed them by. 49 And when they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed it was a ghost, and cried out; 50 for they all saw Him and were troubled. But immediately He talked with them and said to them “Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.” 51 Then He went up into the boat to them, and the wind ceased. And they were greatly amazed in themselves beyond measure, and marveled.

2 Timothy 4:6-8

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

James 1:12

Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

The **first death** is referring to the **physical body** of who you are.

The **second death** is referring to the **spirit / soul** of who you are.

Perhaps you've heard a young man or woman in your life say an acronym which means  
“YOLO” “You Only Live Once”

**What a great philosophy that is.  
100% egocentric 100% narcissistic and 100% fatal.**

**“YOLO. I have no doubt that somewhere, down some dimly lit hallway right at the end thru the door in some little room was demon in hell who invented that one.**

**“Let’s Get People To Think That There’s Only One Life to Live Here on Earth after Death – is nothing. Zip annihilation”**

**Every generation has its own version of this godless theology.**

**For example for many generations the saying was “Let’s eat drink and be merry for tomorrow we die.” When my grandparents were growing up, Herbert Spencer read Chuck Darwin’s book “On The Origin of Species” and thus coined a phrase “The Survival of The Fittest” When I was growing up it was “He who dies with the most toys wins.”**

**What great philosophy do you live by and for?**

**Can I ask you – Who is LORD in your life?  
100% egocentric 100% narcissistic and 100% fatal.**

*End of Study*

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