



# CHURCHES

OF REVELATION



*The Fragrance  
of Christ*

**SMYRNA**

## Revelation 2:8 (ESV)

8 And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: “The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life.”



# Smyrna



# Smyrna

- Settled since prehistoric times, but razed to ground by the Lydians & re-founded by Alexander the Great
- Renowned for their loyalty; declared allegiance to Rome before they were the region's dominant power
- First in Asia to build a temple to Rome



- Jesus is the origin and goal of all things.
- He exercises sovereign control over one's life and destiny.
- It is His resurrection that guarantees His followers eventual victory over the forces of evil, sin, and death.



## Revelation 2:9 (ESV)

9 I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.



“In the world you will have tribulation. But  
take heart; I have overcome the world.”

**(John 16:33)**



## Revelation 2:10 (ESV)

10 Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.



**Jesus will use even these challenges to form us as His people, to purify us as His vessels, and empower us as His witnesses.**



“The crucible is for silver, and the furnace is for gold, and the Lord YHWH tests hearts.” (Proverbs 17:3)



“We do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.” **(2 Corinthians 4:16-17)**



## Revelation 2:10-11 (ESV)

10 ...Be faithful unto 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. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.



“Father, forgive them, for they know not  
what they do.” (Luke 23:34)



“Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' To the contrary, 'if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” (Romans 12:17-21)



“And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.”

**(Matthew 10:28-31)**



“He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,  
yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb  
that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep  
that before its shearers is silent, so he  
opened not his mouth.” (Isaiah 53:7)





**Myrrh**



“For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life.”

**(2 Corinthians 2:15-16)**



# Polycarp of Smyrna

