

Urgency Part 4 Smyrna

Revelation 2:8-11 Amp

⁸ “And to the angel (divine messenger) of the church in [a]Smyrna write: “These are the words of the First and the Last [absolute Deity, the Son of God] who died and came to life [again]:⁹ ‘I know your suffering and your poverty (but you are rich), and how you are blasphemed *and* slandered by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan [they are Jews only by blood, and do not believe and truly honor the God whom they claim to worship]. ¹⁰ Fear nothing that you are about to suffer. Be aware that the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested [in your faith], and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful to the point of death [if you must die for your faith], and I will give you the crown [consisting] of life. ¹¹ He who has an ear, let him hear *and* heed what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes [the world through believing that Jesus is the Son of God] will not be hurt by the second death ([b]the lake of fire).’

1.(verse 2:8) Jesus once again is addressing the leader of the Church (the Pastor) Remember the word angel (Angelos) can mean heavenly angel or earthly messenger. This is significant for it means that the minister is held responsible for the church. In Smyrna, the persecuted church, the Pastor is to take the lead against persecution and stand against it. No matter how bad it gets, the minister of the church is to lead his congregation to hold the banner of Christ high. Even if it means death.

2.Christ says He is the first and the last. He is the supreme authority and ruler over life. Whether it be government officials or people who cause trouble for God's people. They may think that they hold the authority or human life in their own hands and are deceived. But only God has that authority. And the people who cause these problems face judgment. This means that true believers always have the presence of God with them, In the beginning of trouble, in the middle, and the end.

Romans 8:28 Amp

²⁸ And we know [with great confidence] that God [who is deeply concerned about us] causes all things to work together [as a plan] for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to His plan

Romans 8:35-39 Amp

³⁵ Who shall ever separate us from the love of [a]Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ Just as it is written *and* forever remains written,

“FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG;

WE ARE REGARDED AS SHEEP FOR THE SLAUGHTER.”

³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors *and* gain an overwhelming victory through Him who loved us [so much that He died for us]. ³⁸ For I am convinced [and continue to be convinced—beyond any doubt] that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present *and* threatening, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the [unlimited] love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Christ says He is the one that was dead and alive again. He experienced death but death was only a passing thing for Him. He triumphed over it once and done thing, completely finished. Jesus came to life again, He arose. Therefore, the message to the church at Smyrna is that no matter what they experience it all temporal even if they experience death it has been conquered, Christ has personally been there and triumphed over both pain and death. Therefore if you are martyred you shall live forever.

John 5:24 Amp I assure you *and* most solemnly say to you, the person who hears My word [the one who heeds My message], and believes *and* trusts in Him who sent Me, has (possesses now) eternal life [that is, eternal life actually begins—the believer is transformed], and does not come into judgment *and* condemnation, but has passed [over] from death into life.

Hebrews 2:14-15 Amp ¹⁴ Therefore, since [these His] children share in flesh and blood [the physical nature of mankind], He Himself in a similar manner also shared in the same [physical nature, but without sin], so that through [experiencing] death He might make powerless (ineffective, impotent) him who had the power of death—that is, the devil— ¹⁵ and [that He] might free all those who through [the haunting] fear of death were held in slavery throughout their lives. We can look at people today and see how much fear they are in over covid so afraid of dying the forget to live they are being held in slavery.

1 Peter 1:3-4 Amp ³ Blessed [gratefully praised and adored] be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant *and* boundless mercy has caused us to be born again [that is, to be reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, and set apart for His purpose] to an ever-living hope *and* confident assurance through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ [born anew] into an inheritance which is imperishable [beyond the reach of change] and undefiled and unfading, reserved in heaven for you,

3. Verse 2:9 The church at Smyrna is commended for four things 1. The church was under terrible tribulation the Greek word (*thilspin*) The word means affliction, the pressure of crushing affliction the word indicates that the trials and persecution was severe. But the believers were holding on and refusing to deny Christ. They were faithful to Christ despite all the ridicule, mockery, abuse ,the poverty, imprisonment and even death.

Luke 21:12 Amp

¹² “But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and will persecute you, turning you over to the synagogues and prisons, and bringing you before kings and governors for My name’s sake.

John 15: 20-21 Amp ²⁰ Remember [and continue to remember] that I told you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecute Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. ²¹ But they will do all these [hurtful] things to you for My name’s sake [because you bear My name and are identified with Me], for they do not know the One who sent Me.

2 Tim 3:12 Amp ¹² Indeed, all who delight in pursuing righteousness *and* are determined to live godly lives in Christ Jesus will be hunted *and* persecuted [because of their faith].

1 Peter 4:12-13 KJV ¹² Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

¹³ But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

The church was in poverty but they were wealthy in the spirit.

2 Cor 6:9-10 Amp ⁹ as unknown [to the world], yet well-known [by God and His people]; as dying, yet we live; as punished, yet not killed; ¹⁰ as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet bestowing riches on many; as having nothing, yet possessing all things.

2 Cor 8:9 Amp ⁹ For you are recognizing [more clearly] the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ [His astonishing kindness, His generosity, His gracious favor], that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that by His poverty you might become rich (abundantly blessed).

The church was very wealthy spiritually; they were outwardly poor but on the inside rich toward the lord and His mission. All because of faithfulness they were filled with God's presence.

Matthew 6:20 Amp ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in and steal;

Heb 11:24-26 Amp ²⁴ By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵ because he preferred to endure the hardship of the people of God rather than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin. ²⁶ He considered the reproach of the ^[a]Christ [that is, the rebuke he would suffer for his faithful obedience to God] to be greater wealth than all the treasures of Egypt; for he looked ahead to the reward [promised by God].

This is a very strong statement I'm getting ready to make and this statement should be for every church. We are either an assembly of God, of the true and living God, or of satan. This all depends upon whether or not we worship and serve the Lord Jesus Christ. We are a true church if we proclaim and stand up for Jesus Christ in the midst of an evil and corrupt, lost and dying world. A world who slanders believers, promotes evil and kills innocent children.

Matthew 6:24 Amp "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon [money, possessions, fame, status, or whatever is valued more than the Lord].

Matthew 10:32-33 Amp ³² "Therefore, the one who ^[a]confesses *and* acknowledges Me before men [as Lord and Savior, affirming a state of oneness with Me], that one I will also confess *and* acknowledge before My Father who is in heaven. ³³ But the one who denies *and* rejects Me before men, that one I will also deny *and* reject before My Father who is in heaven.

We cannot be a fence rider, remember the devil owns the fence.

2 Peter 2:1 Amp ¹ But [in those days] false prophets arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will subtly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction on themselves.

4. Christ tells the church that more persecution is coming. The devil is going to arouse the unbelievers just like he is doing today. The message is clear: the church was persecuted then and it is going to be persecuted now.

Philippians 1:28-29 Amp ²⁸ And in no way be alarmed *or* intimidated [in anything] by your opponents, for such [constancy and fearlessness on your part] is a [clear] sign [a proof and a seal] for them of [their impending] destruction, but [a clear sign] for you of deliverance *and* salvation, and that *too*, from God. ²⁹ For you have been granted [the privilege] for Christ's sake, not only to believe *and* confidently trust in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,

Deut 31:6 Amp ⁶ Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble in dread before them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not fail you or abandon you."

5. Promise to the overcomer

1. There is a promise to the overcomer, the promise is two fold. The overcomer shall receive a crown of life. This simply means eternal life, life that goes on forever and ever. Persecutors may take your life here on earth, but quicker than the eye can blink God will take you into heaven to be with Him. No way can our lives be extinguished. You have done all the dying you're going to do when you accepted Christ into your heart, the day you died to self.

2. The overcomer will be delivered from the second death. What is the second death? Scripture says this. **Revelation 20:14 Amp** ¹⁴ Then death and Hades [the realm of the dead] were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire [the eternal separation from God].

Revelation 21:8 Amp But as for the cowards and unbelieving and abominable [who are devoid of character and personal integrity and practice or tolerate immorality], and murderers, and sorcerers [with intoxicating drugs], and idolaters *and* occultists [who practice and teach false religions], and all the liars [who knowingly deceive and twist truth], their part will be in the lake that blazes with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

Note: He who has an ear let him hear. There is to be a second death, It is stated in a straightforward manner but if we truly know God we will have nothing to be worried about. We must be faithful to God Son even if we are being persecuted.

Romans 8:16-17 Amp ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself testifies *and* confirms together with our spirit [assuring us] that we [believers] are children of God. ¹⁷ And if [we are His] children, [then we are His] heirs also: heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ [sharing His spiritual blessing and inheritance], if indeed we share in His suffering so that we may also share in His glory.

2 Cor 4:17 Amp ¹⁷ For our momentary, light distress [this passing trouble] is producing for us an eternal weight of glory [a fullness] beyond all measure [surpassing all comparisons, a transcendent splendor and an endless blessedness]!

We must cowboy up just as the church in Smyrna