SMYRNA

“The Loyal Church”

Revelation 2:8-11
The Seven Churches in Asia

- Pergamum
- Thyatira
- Sardis
- Philadelphia
- Ephesus
- Laodicea
- Patmos

Aegean Sea

Mediterranean Sea
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1. Wealthy seaport city about 35 miles north of Ephesus.
2. Strong in areas of science, medicine, art, philosophy, & religion. Had large library and many pagan temples.
3. Was center of “Emperor Worship.” During the reign of Domitian (A.D. 81-96), emperor worship was compulsory, with the threat of death for failure to worship him.
5. An early influential Christian name Polycarp was taught by John and was burned at the stake here around A.D. 156.
6. Was birthplace of Homer, author of the “Iliad” and the “Odyssey.”
1. CHARACTERISTICS OF CHRIST (8)
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   a. The First and the Last
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   b. Who died and came to life again
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2. COMMENDATIONS (9)
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   a. The First and the Last
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2. COMMENDATIONS (9)
   a. They’ve endured persecution.
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2. COMMENDATIONS (9)
   a. They’ve endured persecution.
   b. They’ve endured poverty.
1. CHARACTERISTICS OF CHRIST (8)
   a. The First and the Last
   b. Who died and came to life again

2. COMMENDATIONS (9)
   a. They’ve endured persecution.
   b. They’ve endured poverty.
   c. They’ve endured provocation.
LESSON: Difficulties in our lives do not necessarily indicate deficiencies in our faith.
3. CRITICISMS—None Given
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4. COMMANDS (10a)
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   a. Don’t fear your future suffering
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   a. Don’t fear your future suffering
   b. Be faithful until death
LESSON: Persecution and suffering should not hinder us from persevering and serving Christ.
3. CRITICISMS—None Given
4. COMMANDS (10a)
   a. Don’t fear your future suffering
   b. Be faithful until death
5. COMMITMENTS (10b-11)
3. CRITICISMS—None Given
4. COMMANDS (10a)
   a. Don’t fear your future suffering
   b. Be faithful until death
5. COMMITMENTS (10b-11)
   a. Will receive “crown of life”
3. CRITICISMS—None Given

4. COMMANDS (10a)
   a. Don’t fear your future suffering
   b. Be faithful until death

5. COMMITMENTS (10b-11)
   a. Will receive “crown of life”
   b. Will not be hurt by the “second death”
Questions to Consider

1. When you have experienced difficulties or hardships in your life, what has been your response to God? Has it been negative or positive?
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1. When you have experienced difficulties or hardships in your life, what has been your response to God? Has it been negative or positive?

2. The Christians in Smyrna experienced severe persecution for their faith in Christ. Do you think such persecution could ever happen to Christians in America? If so, what does the response of the believers in Smyrna teach us about how WE should respond?
Questions to Consider

3. Why does Christ say the Christians in Smyrna should stand strong in their faith, even in the face of persecution & suffering? How should these promises encourage US in difficult times?