

THE SEVEN CHURCHES | THE SUFFERING CHURCH

REVELATION 2:8-11

Smyrna was an affluent, beautiful, coastal city in Asia Minor. It was known as a learning center especially in science and medicine. It would seem to be a great place to live according to the values of the world. However, it was also a hotbed of emperor worship. The church would face persecution from those in Smyrna that were devoted to the Roman Empire and its leader. Smyrna also hosted a Jewish Synagogue. Those faithful to that synagogue were extremely hostile to the church in Smyrna. Jesus's words to the church include commendation, commands, and rewards. This church under heavy persecution, did not earn any criticism from the Lord Jesus. As we examine the church in Smyrna, we answer the question: How do we properly respond when trials come to the church?

1. We keep our hope _____ on _____
and _____ (8).
2. We keep in mind that He knows our _____ and
recognizes our _____ (9).
3. We heed His words to not be _____ and to persevere
in _____ (10).
4. We keep our _____ in the forefront of our mind. (11).