

# Thursday Morning Bible Study

## MESSAGE TO SMYRNA 2-13-20

JAMES 1:2-4 COUNT IT ALL JOY WHEN YOU ENCOUNTER VARIOUS TRIALS KNOWING THAT THE TESTING OF YOUR FAITH PRODUCES ENDURANCE AND LET ENDURANCE HAVE ITS PERFECT RESULT, SO THAT YOU MAY BE PERFECT, COMPLETE, LACKING IN NOTHING.

1 PETER 5:10 AFTER YOU HAVE SUFFERED FOR A LITTLE WHILE, THE GOD OF ALL GRACE,....WILL HIMSELF PERFECT, CONFIRM, STRENGTHEN AND ESTABLISH YOU.

PERSECUTIONS, TRIALS, TRIBULATION AND SUFFERING WILL:

- ALWAYS destroy FALSE FAITH
- WILL Strengthen TRUE FAITH.

SMYRNA:

- WAS A VERY ANTI gospel PLACE
- PERSECUTED BY Caesar (PARTICULARLY DOMITIAN)

v8 JESUS DESCRIBES HIMSELF TO THEM AS:

- THE FIRST AND THE last
- WHO WAS DEAD AND HAS COME TO Life
- HE GIVES HIMSELF THIS TITLE 3 TIMES IN THIS BOOK (C'S. 1,2,22)

ACTS 19:10 SO THAT ALL WHO LIVED IN ASIA HEARD THE WORD OF THE LORD, BOTH JEWS AND GREEKS.

MORE INFO ON SMYRNA:

- LIFE WAS VERY dangerous
- THE GREEK WORD MEANS myrrh
- CALLED THE Crown OF ASIA (beautiful)
- VERY Old
- TODAY KNOWN AS Ismir TURKEY
- BECAME A CENTER OF SCIENCE AND Medicine
- WAS A Free CITY (Self governing)
- STRONG emperor WORSHIP CULT THERE

- CENTER OF Pagan WORSHIP
- PEOPLE WHO DIDN'T WORSHIP CAESAR WERE Killed

THE COMMENDATION TO THE CHURCH:

v.9

1. I KNOW YOUR tribulation

MEANS:

- Pressure
- TO Crush

WHY THE PERSECUTION?

1. THEY WERE IN OPPOSITION WITH emperor WORSHIP
2. THE CITY WAS ENGULFED IN pagan WORSHIP
3. THE Jews

ROMANS 2:28 HE IS NOT A JEW WHO IS ONE OUTWARDLY. HE IS A JEW WHO IS ONE INWARDLY.

2. I KNOW YOUR poverty

2 GREEK WORDS FOR POOR:

- "PENES" MEANS YOU HAVE NOTHING extra
- "PTOCHOS" MEANS YOU HAVE Nothing AT ALL (extreme poverty)

3. BUT YOU ARE rich

v.10

THE COMMAND:

- DO NOT fear
- More SUFFERING IS COMING
- Satan IS BEHIND THE SUFFERING

THE REASON FOR THE SUFFERING:

- FOR YOUR testing