



Introduction

The name Smyrna comes from "myrrh" which is a bitter herb, a suitable name for a church facing persecution. Smyrna was an important seaport about 35 miles north of Ephesus. Both the presence of the Romans, and a large Jewish population made life difficult for genuine believers. Smyrna is one of two churches that receive no rebuke from the Lord.

The believer can expect suffering and tribulation in every age. Those in this beautiful city of great wealth, were well acquainted with poverty. They were robbed, fired from jobs and persecuted for their stand for the gospel. Early Christians joyfully accepted the plundering of their goods, knowing that an enduring possession awaited them in their heavenly home. They were tested, and they passed the test, leaving us hope and encouragement as we face similar trials in a darkening world.

Treasures of the Heart

Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer.

Rev 2:10

What does it say?

The first step is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure. **Mark your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts or similarities. Look for answers to, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How?

Revelation 2:8-11

8 "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write,

'These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life: 9 "I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. 10 Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until 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. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death."

What words or phrases are repeated? Repeated words help us discover the main point, and what is most important to the author.

Look - **What do you see?** Write a summary sentence that states the **main point of the chapter** from the observations you made. What is the author trying to say?

Aim: _____

Learn – **What does it mean?**

What **lesson** can I draw from my observations? **Ask yourself, “What was the intended meaning of the original author?”** Is there a command to obey or a warning to heed? An example to follow or avoid? **State each lesson in a simple sentence that you could share with someone else.** (aim for 10 words or less).

Revelation 2:8-11 _____

Live - **How can I apply it?**

Ask yourself, “What course of action do I need to take to apply each lesson?” How should it change me? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? Putting it in the form of a question helps make it personal. (aim for 10 words or less).

Revelation 2:8-11 _____

Challenge: Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up the main point.
Summarize your findings in your own words.

Looking for Jesus. . .

The following appear in each of the 7 churches. State and define the church name along with each of the following. **State or simply define these truths in your own words.**

Name of Church _____

Name of Jesus _____

Commendation _____

Criticism _____

Exhortation _____

Call _____

Promise _____

The Kingdom of Heaven is Like

Each of the 7 churches corresponds with the 7 Kingdom Parables found in Matthew 13. See if you can discover which Kingdom parable that corresponds with this church. What added meaning does it imply?

Expand the Vision

Each church also corresponds with one of Paul's epistles. For expanded understanding, which of Paul's epistles corresponds with this church?

Title State the main **point** of the passage in the form of a title.

Flex Your Muscles See if you can simply state what the Spirit is saying and what must be overcome?

Radiating His Truth . . .

This 'tribulation' does not mean the common trials to which all flesh is heir.
The tribulation mentioned here is trouble they would not have had if they
had not been Christians.

Vance Havner

