

## Sermon Notes

### *Jesus Walks Among the Lampstands*

“Jesus’ Assessment of Smyrna” – Revelation 2:8-11

#### I. Introduction

##### A. Map and text: Revelation 2:8-11

1. Ephesus and Smyrna in contrast.
2. Little of the city remains.
3. Izmir now located on this site.
  - a. Polycarp.

##### B. Facts about Smyrna in the first century.

1. Importance.
2. Size.
3. City is especially identified with two things.
  - a. I \_\_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. L \_\_\_\_\_ J \_\_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_\_

##### C. Smyrna had a long term L \_\_\_\_\_ affair with R \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Dea Roma
2. Patriotic loyalty to the Empire.
3. A competing city.
4. Gregory Beale

##### D. Large Jewish Community

1. Large numbers of Jews had been, decades earlier, dispersed throughout the region.
2. Instrumental in Polycarp’s martyrdom.

#### II. Exposition.

##### A. The Christ Title.

1. Revelation 2:8b – “The first and the last . . .”
  - a. Illusion to Old Testament. Isaiah 41:4; 44:6; 48:12
  - b. Mereism in verse 44:4.
2. “Who was dead, and has come to life again.”
  - a. A deep-seated connection to Christians at Smyrna.
    1. See 2:10,11

##### B. The Commendation.

1. Revelation 2:9
  - a. Three things commended.

1. A \_\_\_\_\_
2. P \_\_\_\_\_
3. S \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2. I know your afflictions (tribulations).

##### a. Word study on *THLIPIS*.

##### 1. See Matthew 7:13-14.

- a. Narrow way – Hemmed in like a mountain gorge. In this sense trials hem the believer into a very confined space.

##### b. Affliction is a general term, but the specifics of the Christian’s situation are given.

1. P \_\_\_\_\_
2. S \_\_\_\_\_

#### 3. “I know . . . your poverty, yet you are rich.”

##### a. Poverty – literal economic meaning.

##### 1. Not mentioned of the other six churches.

##### 2. Unwillingness to compromise led to financial hardship.

- a. B \_\_\_\_\_ of Christians b \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. Not H \_\_\_\_\_ for a job or F \_\_\_\_\_ from a job.
- c. T \_\_\_\_\_ or D \_\_\_\_\_ of personal property.

#### 4. “I know . . . the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews but are not but are of the synagogue of Satan.”

##### a. Blasphemy versus Slander (Slander is a better translation.)

##### b. General slander.

##### 1. Examples of Paul – Acts 13:45; 18:6; 14:2.

##### c. Specific slander.

##### 1. Note official communication from Pliny the Younger to Emperor Trajan, 111-113.

#### III. Point for Reflection.

##### A. Suffering is the hallmark of the church.

1. Matthew 5:10-12; Luke 6:26; John 15:18; John 16:33; II Tim. 3:12
2. Bonhoeffer.
3. Being in Peru
4. John Stott
5. The early church achieved much.

##### B. What would Jesus say about us?