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"Smyrna"
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Imagine receiving a **letter** from **Jesus**.

Jesus' seven letters in Revelation 2 & 3 still **inspire** us today.

Today, we turn to the letter to the church in **Smyrna**.

The letter to Smyrna has only **commendation** and no **condemnation**.

What does Jesus commend?

• They withstood **poverty**—they were actually **rich**.

Revelation 2:9a

I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich!

• They withstood **slander**—they were above **reproach**.

Revelation 2:9b

I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

How does Jesus encourage?

Do not be afraid.

Revelation 2:10a

Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days.

• Be faithful.

Revelation 2:10b

Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown.

Revelation 2:11

Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death.

At the end of the day, we will only **die once**.