

### **The Mysteries regarding the Church at Smyrna III**

- I.** To the church at Smyrna— ‘crushed myrrh’ (Rev. 2:8-11).
1. The pastor is encouraged:
    - 1) To remember the difference between physical and spiritual riches (v. 9).
    - 2) To resist the misuse of the Old Testament when physical blessings are conditionally promised, particularly during physical suffering (v. 9).
    - 3) This necessitates understanding New Testament trials.
  2. The church is told they will suffer physically (v. 10).
    - 1) Satan will have some of them put in prison: government.
    - 2) They will be tempted during a set time of persecution.
    - 3) They will face physical death.
    - 4) They are encouraged to be faithful as far as the point of the death process (v. 11).
    - 5) Those who remain faithful will be rewarded the Crown of the Life (v. 10).
      - i. Resisting temptation even with looming death.
      - ii. Resist the temptation specific to the individual (Jam. 1:12)
        - a) “The crown of the life” in both verses.
        - b) Placing one’s spiritual life above one’s physical life.
      - iii. “The life” cannot be eternal life, since the Christian already has this life.
      - iv. “The life” must be living out eternal life through *exercising resurrection life*: no fear of physical death (Rom. 6:11). Note: assurance of the Image.
      - v. The Crown of Life is for Christians that overcome a specific temptation in their life: *‘the pebble in the shoe you cannot get rid of’*.
- II.** The promise to the overcomer: no harm from the second death.
1. Promise given to Christians (1 Jn. 5:5).
  2. Promise to spiritual Christians: “has an ear” (*cf.* 1 Cor. 3:1-3).
  3. No harm from the second death process.
  4. Physical death is separation (Jam. 2:26 *cf.* 1 Tim. 5:6; Rom. 6:23).
    - 1) The spirit leaves the body (Jam. 2:26).
  5. The soul leaves the body (Acts 5:5, 10; Acts 2:27 *cf.* Lu. 23:43; 1 Ki. 17:21-22). Spiritual death, the second death is eternal separation from God (Rev. 20:11-15 *cf.* Mt. 25:41, 46).