

Book of Revelation, part 17

The Church as Smyrna

- I.** The City's history.
 - 1. Port city, 35 miles north of Ephesus.
 - 2. Rich commercially.
 - 3. Favored by Rome, "most loyal", Cicero.
- II.** "The first and last" (Rev. 2:8).
 - 1. The preeminent One to all things in creation.
 - 2. By Him all the physical universe came to be (Jn. 1:3).
 - 3. He is the source of spiritual life (Jn. 1:4; 1 Jn. 5:11-13).
 - 4. Because of Him all things were created (Col. 1:16).
 - 5. He is the 'rule of physics' for all matter (Col. 1:17; 2 Pet. 3:11-12).
- III.** "Who became dead and became alive" (Rev. 2:8).
 - 1. He is the first-fruit of victory over physical death (1 Cor. 15:20, 23).
 - 2. His return for His saints is a hope different from the unsaved (1 Thes. 4:13, 18).
- IV.** "I intellectually know your works" (Rev. 2:9).
 - 1. Good works are judged by Christ alone (1 Cor. 4:5).
 - 2. He values the motive, in harmony with Scripture and by the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- V.** "I know ... your tribulation and poverty" (Rev. 2:9).
 - 1. Tribulations work patience (Rom. 5:3).
 - 2. Tribulations bring experience to comfort others (2 Cor. 1:4-5).
- VI.** "Contrariwise, you are rich" (Rev. 2:9).
 - 1. Rich spiritually by new birth (Col. 1:27; 2:2-3).
- VII.** "I know ... blasphemy of the ones saying they are Jews, and they are not, contrariwise, they are of the synagogue of Satan (Rev. 2:9).
 - 1. Blasphemy—ascribing something to God that is not true.
 - 2. 'Synagogue' belonging to Satan, verses 'church'.
 - 3. Different Gospel (Gal. 1:6-7; Rom. 16:25).
 - 4. Add works (Eph. 2:8; Rom. 11:6; Gal. 5:4).