

Book of Revelation, part 18
The Church as Smyrna

- I.** Christ encourages the church at Smyrna because of their impending persecution (Rev. 2:8-9).
- II.** “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.
- III.** “I know ... your tribulation ...” (Rev. 2:9).
 - 1. Tribulations work patience (Rom. 5:3).
 - 2. Tribulations bring experience to comfort others (2 Cor. 1:4-5).
- IV.** “I know your poverty, contrariwise, you are rich” (Rev. 2:9).
 - 1. Poor physically—outer man (2 Cor. 4:14).
 - 2. Rich spiritually by new birth—inner man (Col. 1:27; 2:2-3).
- V.** “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).
- IV.** “Stop fearing what you are about to suffer” (Rev. 2:10).
 - 1. Spiritual cowardness.
 - 2. The Helmet of Salvation (Eph. 6:17).
 - 1) Past salvation based on Christ’s resurrection (1 Cor. 15:4).
 - 2) Christ is the first-fruit of our resurrection (1 Cor. 15:20, 24).
 - 3) If we pass away prior to the Rapture we will be present with the Lord (2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:21).
 - 4) He will never leave us or forsake us (Heb. 13:5-6)