

Book of Revelation, part 19
The Church as Smyrna

- I.** Christ repeats parts of the description of the Image to encourage the church at Smyrna because of their impending persecution (Rev. 2:8-9). He planned and permitted their suffering.
 - 1. They are poor physically.
 - 2. However, they are rich spiritually.
 - 3. Pressure from outside to function under The Law.
- II.** “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).
- III.** The devil will cast some into prison (Rev. 2:10).
 - 1. Note the use of the second person plural that includes the congregation with the pastor.
 - 2. They will be tempted during trials/tribulations.
 - 3. Tempted to cowardness to give up the faith/witness.
 - 4. The suffering will be intense during a certain prescribed period—ten days.
- IV.** The Crown of the Life (Rev. 2:10).
 - 1. Given as a reward by Christ.
 - 2. Given for a faithful witness up to the process of death.
 - 3. Victor’s crown, not the one for royalty.
 - 4. The five crowns: ¹ Leading someone to the Lord (1 Thes. 2:19; Phil. 4:1); ² Righteousness (2 Tim. 4:8); ³ Life (Rev. 2:10; Jam. 1:12) ⁴ Bodily control (1 Cor. 9:25-26); ⁵ Pastor (1 Pet. 5:4).
 - 5. Revelation 2:10 the rewarding of the crown is for maintaining a testimony in a paramount situation, under duress up to death.
 - 6. Jame 1:12 the crown is for resisting a specific temptation.