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Study Guide Page 1 / Answers Page 2

## Revelation 2:8-11

## The Message to Smyrna

- The persecution of the church has been present in every \_\_\_\_\_ since the ascension of Christ.
- While in contemporary Western culture the intensity of persecution has greatly \_\_\_\_\_.
- If Ephesus was the \_\_\_\_\_ church; Smyrna was the \_\_\_\_\_ church.

## I. The Introduction

- a) Being assured of Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ helps put our life in better \_\_\_\_\_.

## II. The City

- a) Located in Asia Minor (modern day \_\_\_\_\_)
- b) \_\_\_\_\_ miles north of Ephesus
- c) Smyrna is the same word for \_\_\_\_\_ – a sweet smelling fragrant spice or
- d) The sweet smell became evident as one would crush the Myrrh plant.
- e) As the church was crushed by persecution, it released a sweet-smelling \_\_\_\_\_ to God.

## III. The Commendation

- a) \_\_\_\_\_ Persecution

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ (the peace of Rome) provided religious tolerance which allowed the early church to spread.
2. In a moment, the flames of persecution had been \_\_\_\_\_.

- b) \_\_\_\_\_ Persecution

- c) \_\_\_\_\_ Persecution

1. Jews were accusing Christian of \_\_\_\_\_
2. The Jews were accusing early Christians of \_\_\_\_\_
3. Because of the command to love one another the Jews were accusing Christians of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
4. Jews tried to persuade Roman authorities that Christian worship and discipleship amounted to political \_\_\_\_\_.

- d) \_\_\_\_\_ Persecution

- e) \_\_\_\_\_ Persecution

## IV. The Counsel

- a) Of the seven churches, there are only two churches—Smyrna and \_\_\_\_\_—that did not receive a rebuke.

1. Persecution \_\_\_\_\_ the church.
2. The fires of tribulation remove the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Their tribulation has kept them \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ.

## Two Commands from Christ in the midst of Persecution

1. Do not \_\_\_\_\_
2. Be \_\_\_\_\_ until death

## V. The Approval from God

- a) Despite the fierce persecution they faced, the church in Smyrna enjoyed rich \_\_\_\_\_ from the Lord

## VI. Conclusion

- Remain \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord
- Keep your \_\_\_\_\_ on Christ
- \_\_\_\_\_ because your reward in heaven is great!
- Wear it as a \_\_\_\_\_ of honor!
- Don't try and \_\_\_\_\_ into the crowd
- Let your faith be \_\_\_\_\_ to all men!

## Revelation 2:8-11

### The Message to Smyrna

- The persecution of the church has been present in every **generation** since the ascension of Christ.
- While in contemporary Western culture the intensity of persecution has greatly **diminished**.
- If Ephesus was the **cold** church; Smyrna was the **persecuted** church.

#### I. The Introduction

- a. Being assured of Christ's **eternality** helps put our life in better **perspective**.

#### II. The City

- a. Located in Asia Minor (modern day **Turkey**)
- b. **35** miles north of Ephesus
- c. Smyrna is the same word for **myrrh** – a sweet smelling fragrant spice or
- d. The sweet smell became evident as one would crush the Myrrh plant.
- e. As the church was crushed by persecution, it released a sweet-smelling **aroma** to God.

#### III. The Commendation

##### a. **Governmental** Persecution

1. The **Pax Romana** (the peace of Rome) provided religious tolerance which allowed the early church to spread.
2. In a moment, the flames of persecution had been **ignited**.

##### b. **Economic** Persecution

##### c. **Religious** Persecution

1. Jews were accusing Christian of **cannibalism**
2. The Jews were accusing early Christians of **atheism**
3. Because of the command to love one another the Jews were accusing Christians of **lust** and **immorality**
4. Jews tried to persuade Roman authorities that Christian worship and discipleship amounted to political **disloyalty**.

##### d. **Physical** Persecution

##### e. **Satanic** Persecution

#### IV. The Counsel

- a. Of the seven churches, there are only two churches—Smyrna and **Philadelphia**—that did not receive a rebuke.
  1. Persecution **purifies** the church.
  2. The fires of tribulation remove the **dross**.
  3. Their tribulation has kept them **humble** and **in love** with Christ.

#### Two Commands from Christ in the midst of Persecution

1. Do not **fear**
2. Be **faithful** until death

#### V. The Approval from God

- a. Despite the fierce persecution they faced, the church in Smyrna enjoyed rich **spiritual blessings** from the Lord

#### VI. Conclusion

1. Remain **strong** in the Lord
2. Keep your **eyes** on Christ
3. **Rejoice** because your reward in heaven is great!
4. Wear it as a **badge** of honor!
5. Don't try and **blend** into the crowd
6. Let your faith be **known** to all men!