

THE STATE OF THE CHURCH

“The Church at Smyrna”

Reference: **Revelation 2:8-11**

Pastor Larry Webb

Jesus dictated seven messages (letters) to the apostle John. Each letter contains four categories: a **commendation**, a **condemnation**, some **counsel** and then a **challenge**. There were two congregations that weren't condemned: the congregations at _____ and _____.

verse eight (see screen)

The author of this message was called **the First and the Last**. That phrase is only used in Scripture describe _____. Then this author was also someone **who was dead and is now alive**. From the first statement we know this author is God; but, God the Father never died and the only human that has died and is now alive never to die again is _____. This first phrase describes God and this second phrase describes Jesus so because both phrases are describing the same identical person then _____ has to be _____!

COMMENDATION:

Jesus commended this church for two things:

- Jesus commended them for _____ religious _____.

verse nine (see screen)

The Greek word translated as “tribulation” is a word that means a constant and _____.

This word “know” means to know something from _____.

The word Smyrna means “**myrrh**” and **myrrh** was used for four basic ancient functions:

- 1) Myrrh was used as a _____ ointment.
- 2) Myrrh was used as a _____.
Reference: **Matthew 2:11**
- 3) Myrrh was used as a _____ (pain killer).
Reference: **Mark 15:23**
- 4) Myrrh was also used as an _____.

Reference: **John 19:39**

Myrrh was present at Jesus' _____, at Jesus' _____ and at Jesus' _____.

In this account myrrh symbolized _____.

Question: Why was this particular congregation being persecuted?

Answer: This congregation being was persecuted because those Christian congregants refused to participate in _____.

- Jesus commended them for enduring severe _____.
verse nine continued (see screen)

The word used in this text translated as poverty is the Greek word "*Ptocheia*" and that word means to be absolutely _____.
Real riches aren't financial and material. True riches that matter are _____.

verse nine continued (see screen)

Definition: A _____ is a member of the people group that has descended from Abraham.

Definition: An _____ was a member of the ancient Hebrew nation.

Definition: An _____ is a member (citizen or permanent resident) of the modern nation of Israel.

Definition: In the most basic sense a **Jew** or **Jewess** is someone whose _____ is Judaism.

Judaism is ethnoreligious meaning that someone is still considered Jewish if that person is a member of the global people group that constitutes through descent or conversion a continuation of the ancient Jewish people

COUNSEL:

Jesus advised this church to do two basic things:

Number one -was to not be _____ of persecution.
verse ten (see screen)

Jesus said that they would have tribulation ten days. Does that mean that they are going to be persecuted just ten more days and then there's no more persecution? The consensus is that those ten days of tribulation (persecution) were **ten periods** of intense persecution under the auspices of ten consecutive _____.

- 1) _____ (64-68 AD)
- 2) _____ (90-96 AD)
- 3) _____ (104-117 AD)

- 4) _____ (161-180 AD)
- 5) _____ (200-211 AD)
- 6) _____ (235-237 AD)
- 7) _____ (250-253 AD)
- 8) _____ (257-260 AD)
- 9) _____ (270-275 AD)
- 10) _____ (303-312 AD)

Number two - was to be _____ to Jesus until death.
verse ten continued (see screen)

Question: Did those Christians do that?

Answer: _____!

It has been estimated, that from 100 A.D. to 312 A.D. _____ Christians were martyred because of their **faithfulness to Jesus Christ**.

CHALLENGE:

verse eleven (see screen)

There are two potential births:

- the first birth is _____
- the second possible birth is _____

There are two potential deaths (death means _____):

- the first death means that someone's soulish self is separated from his _____
- the second death means someone's entire self, both soul and body, is separated from _____

Reference: **Revelation 20:14**

Promise: If **we're born** just **once** then we're going to die _____.
If **we're born twice** then we're going to die just _____!