



FAITHFUL... NO MATTER WHAT
THE SMYRNA CHURCH
REV. 2:8-11



THE CHURCH: WHY HAVE IT?

- A place where spiritual people go



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- A place to receive teaching, community and fellowship



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- A place where spiritual people go
- A place to receive teaching, community and fellowship
- Passionate Christ-followers doing life together



THE CHURCH: WHY NOT HAVE IT?

- Only good people allowed



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- Imperfect people – “full of hypocrites”



THE CHURCH: WHY NOT HAVE IT?

- Only good people allowed
- Imperfect people – “full of hypocrites”
- Irrelevant for today



**SMYRNA -
A FAITHFUL CHURCH
IN DIFFICULT TIMES**

REVELATION 2:8-11



HISTORICAL SETTING

- **Writer: The Apostle John**



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- **Smyrna: A city found in Turkey called Izmir**



HISTORICAL SETTING

- **Writer: The Apostle John**
- **Smyrna: A city found in Turkey called Izmir**
- **A time of intense persecution**



HISTORICAL SETTING

- Domitian – A tyrannical emperor who hated Christians



HISTORICAL SETTING

- Domitian – A tyrannical emperor who hated Christians
- Polycarp – church father and martyr for his faith



**"FOR 86 YEARS I HAVE SERVED CHRIST AND
HE HAS DONE ME NO WRONG. HOW CAN I
BLASPHEME MY KING WHO SAVED ME?"**

(POLYCARP)



SMYRNA

**A CHURCH THAT WAS FAITHFUL
TO THE CORE!**



'ANGEL OF THE CHURCH' (2:8)

- A literal angel



'ANGEL OF THE CHURCH' (2:8)

- A literal angel
- The ethos of the church



THE DARK SIDE OF ENCOURAGEMENT (2:9)

- Tribulation



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- Tribulation
- Poverty



THE DARK SIDE OF ENCOURAGEMENT (2:9)

- Tribulation
- Poverty
- Slander



THE DARK SIDE OF ENCOURAGEMENT (2:9)

- Tribulation
- Poverty
- Slander
- Suffering



THE DARK SIDE OF ENCOURAGEMENT (2:9)

- Tribulation
- Poverty
- Slander
- Suffering
- Possibly death



THE HOPE-FILLED SIDE OF ENCOURAGEMENT (2:10-11)

- Do not fear!



THE HOPE-FILLED SIDE OF ENCOURAGEMENT (2:10-11)

- Do not fear!

Fear:

- Turns us into false prophets



THE HOPE-FILLED SIDE OF ENCOURAGEMENT (2:10-11)

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Fear:

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- We can run to God or from Him



THE HOPE-FILLED SIDE OF ENCOURAGEMENT (2:10-11)

- Do not fear!

Fear:

- Turns us into false prophets
 - We can run to God or from Him
- God uses even the devil's work
For His good!



THE HOPE-FILLED SIDE OF ENCOURAGEMENT (2:10-11)

- Be faithful...no matter what!



THE HOPE-FILLED SIDE OF ENCOURAGEMENT (2:10-11)

- Be faithful...no matter what!
- The best is yet to come!



THE PORTRAIT OF TODAY'S FAITHFUL CHURCH

- Passionate followers/disciple makers of Jesus Christ



THE PORTRAIT OF TODAY'S FAITHFUL CHURCH

- Passionate followers/disciple makers of Jesus Christ
- People who take the Bible as their guide for life



THE PORTRAIT OF TODAY'S FAITHFUL CHURCH

- Passionate followers/disciple makers of Jesus Christ
- People who take the Bible as their guide for life
- People who are fearless and unashamed of their faith



