



**Questions:
The Church - What Would Jesus Say?
Revelation 2:8-11**

I. Jesus is Bigger than Death (2:8)

II. Jesus Knows His People in Their Suffering (2:9)

III. Jesus Calls His People to Be Faithful even to the Point of Death (2:10a)

IV. Jesus Promises His People the Crown of Life (2:10b-11)*

Point to Ponder: Ask yourself how you might have spoken of the church in Smyrna if you had stumbled upon it in your travels? I think we might have likely thought that it was a church of little account. After all, they had no standing in the community; their people weren't leaders but rather were openly slandered. They had no money to make things happen. Yet Smyrna is one of only two congregations of among this list of 7 to whom Jesus speaks no word of correction. He speaks only words of encouragement. How often do we define successful churches with the standards of the world instead of the standards of our Savior?

Disclaimer: Too often studies of Revelation among believers become mired in simply defending our own interpretive framework. We use words like "preterist, futurist, historicist, and idealist." We pile on prefaces (pre, post, and a) to define our view on the millennium. I have my own view on these subjects, yet I will strive to preach this series from the book of Revelation with no agenda to convince you of my view. While the careful listener may be able to guess my viewpoint, my hope in this study is to proclaim truths that all who love the scriptures can affirm.

*I have borrowed much of this outline from James Hamilton Jr. from his book *Revelation: The Spirit Speaks to the Churches*.