

“Smyrna & the Martyrs - The Ultimate Stumbling Fools”

Pastor Greg Webster



“The Cross: A Foolish Stumbling Block,” Pt 7

November 27, 2021

Rev. 1:10 I was in the spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet

Rev. 1:11 saying, "Write in a book what you see and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamum, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."



Rev. 2:8 ¶ “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write:

These are the words of the first and the last, who was dead and came to life:



Rev. 2:9 ¶ “I know your affliction and your poverty, even though you are rich. I know the slander on the part of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

Rev. 2:10 Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Beware, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison so that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have affliction. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Rev. 2:11 Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. Whoever conquers will not be harmed by the second death.




Rev. 2:9

“I know your affliction...

and your poverty...

I know the slander...



Matt. 24:9 ¶ "Then they will 
deliver you to tribulation, and will
kill you, and you will be hated by
all nations because of My name.

Rev. 2:9

“I know your affliction...

and your poverty...

I know the slander...



2Cor. 8:2 that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality.



2Cor. 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.



2Cor. 8:2. ordeal of affliction/abundance of joy
deep poverty /overflowed in the wealth

2Cor. 8:9 He was rich/He became poor
His poverty/(We) become rich.

Rev. 2:9

“I know your affliction...

and your poverty...

I know the slander...



The era of persecution begins about 303 CE
Emperor Diocletian & the era of Martyrdom.

- ◆ Orders all Christian communities dissolved.
- ◆ Demolishes their churches
- ◆ Burns all books



The era of persecution begins about 303 CE
Emperor Diocletian & the era of Martyrdom.

- ✦ Martyrs thousands
- ✦ Enslaves even more
- ✦ St. Sebastian
- ✦ Sts. Cecil & Agnes



The last wave of persecution

ends in 311 CE

Completely ends in 313 CE -

Edict of Constantine



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Beware, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison so that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have affliction. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.



Matt. 10:28 Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.



1John 4:18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.

Rev. 2:9 ¶ "...I know the slander on the part of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

Rev. 3:9 I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but are lying...



Rev. 2:10 ...you will have affliction. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.



1Cor. 1:23 but we preach Christ crucified,
to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles
foolishness,





“...See to it that no one misses the grace of God...”

Heb. 12:15