



“Smyrna: The Poor & Martyred Fools”

Pastor Greg Webster



“Alpha to Omega & In Our Midst,” Pt 2



John 16:26 On that day you will ask in my name. I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf,
John 16:27 for the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.

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



Smyrna





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.

Smyrna





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Rev. 2:9 ¶

I know your affliction...
and your poverty...
I know the slander...



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Matt. 24:9 ¶ "Then they will
hand you over to be tortured
and will put you to death,
and you will be hated by all
nations because of my name.



Rev. 2:9 ¶

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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 awealth of their liberality.

2Cor. 8:9 For you know at the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that bthough 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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Matt. 10:28 Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell.^v

1 John 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](#)



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