



Synod of the Diocese of West Malaysia

St Mary's Cathedral

Making disciples of Jesus Christ

To The Church In Smyrna (Revelation 2:8-11)

Smyrna was a beautiful harbour city north of Ephesus. Business opportunity and prosperity came through membership of imperial trade guilds which involved participation in emperor worship. Smyrna was also home to a large and influential Jewish population.



Read Revelation 2:8-11

1. How does Jesus describe himself? (Recall Rev 1:17-18)
2. What does Jesus say he knows about the church in Smyrna?
3. How do the following verses help us understand the tribulation (trouble) the church in Smyrna was experiencing?
 - a. John 15:18-16:4 and John 16:33
 - b. John 8:37-38, 44, 51
4. How do you think the church in Smyrna would feel hearing that Jesus knows all this?

5. What response does Jesus want from the church in Smyrna? (See also Matthew 5:10-12 and Matthew 10:28)

6. In Ancient Rome, crowns were not a sign of royalty, but of victory. What do the following verses add to our understanding of the crown of life?
 - a. James 1:12
 - b. 1 Corinthians 9:24-25
 - c. 2 Timothy 4:6-8
 - d. 1 Peter 5:4

7. Read Revelation 20:14-15. What is the second death?

8. What is the connection between how Jesus introduces himself (v8) and the promises he gives the church (v10-11)?

9. What does this message to Smyrna add to our understanding of what it means to conquer/be victorious?

10. How have Jesus' words to the church in Smyrna personally challenged you?

11. What can we pray for the church and ourselves in response to this passage?