

TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES IN ASIA

SMYRNA

EPHESUS

THE  
SMYRNA  
LETTER

# Christ's Portrait

## The First and the Last

- Providing comfort — **Revelation 1:17-18**
- *“I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God.”* (**Isaiah 44:6**)

## He Who was Dead, and Came to Life

- **Revelation 1:18** — has the keys of Hades and Death.
- **2:10** — providing strength for faithfulness.

# Christ's Praise

## Silence that Speaks Volumes

- Christ does not need to say anything. Their faithfulness is evident by the silence concerning anything negative despite what they have faced.
- **Tribulation** — John 16:33; Acts 14:22; Mark 4:16-17
- **Poverty** — Hebrews 10:34; 1 Corinthians 4:8, 11, 13
- **Blasphemy** — Luke 23:2, 14; Acts 6:11, 13; 13:45; 14:2; 18:6
  - *“those who say they are Jews and are not”* — Romans 2:28-29; Philippians 3:2-3
  - *“but are a synagogue of Satan”* — John 8:44

# Christ's Praise

## Silence that Speaks Volumes

- They remain steadfast in God's grace — **1 Peter 5:12**
  - Necessary trials — **1 Peter 1:6**
  - Spoken against as evildoers — **1 Peter 2:12-17**
  - Satan seeking to devour — **1 Peter 5:8-9**
  - **They follow their Lord** — **1 Peter 2:21-25** — **"I KNOW"**
    - **They suffer** — *"Christ also suffered"*
    - **They are poor** — *"though He was rich...He became poor"* (**2 Cor. 8:9**)
    - **They are blasphemed** — *"He was reviled"*

# Christ's Praise

## You Are Rich

- **Tribulation** – *thlipsis* – “being derived from *tribulum*, the threshing-roller of the Romans.” (Vincent’s Word Studies)
  - Pressure that brings blessing — **2 Corinthians 4:16-17**
    - **1 Peter 4:14; James 2:5; 2 Cor. 6:10; Luke 12:21**

*“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.” (2 Corinthians 8:9)*

# Christ's Prescription

## Do Not Fear

- *“Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer.” (v. 10)*
- He was dead but came to life — (v. 8) — **John 11:25-26**

*“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.” (Psalm 23:4)*

# Christ's Prescription

## Be Faithful Unto Death

- Faithfulness even to the point of death (v. 10).
- Faithfulness to the Faithful One — **2 Timothy 2:11-13**

*“For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.” (2 Corinthians 1:20)*

# Christ's Promise

## I Will Give You the Crown of Life

- *“the crown of life”* (Revelation 2:10)
- *“an imperishable crown”* (1 Corinthians 9:25)
- *“the crown of righteousness”* (2 Timothy 4:8)
- *“the crown of glory that does not fade away”* (1 Peter 5:4)

*“Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.”* (James 1:12, NASB)

# Christ's Promise

## You Shall Not be Hurt by the Second Death

*"I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death."* (Revelation 1:18)

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