

SERIES: “WHAT DOES CHRIST THINK OF OUR CHURCH?”

THE SEVEN LETTERS OF REVELATION

PART 2: REVELATION 2:8-11 ~ SMYRNA: THE CHRIST CENTRED CHURCH WBC SERMON NOTES 20/10/2019

INTRODUCTION: Today we take a look at Smyrna, the Christ – centered church that was willing to count the cost for Jesus. Too often today we meet churches that are consumer driven instead of Christ centered. How does Jesus see our church? Are we willing to count the cost of our faith?

RECAP: Jesus is walking among the candlesticks (= the churches)

It's a profound picture: the local church is meant to be a light -

Jesus!

It's an encouraging picture: Jesus is with us! (Matt. 28:20)

It's a disconcerting (unnerving) picture: Jesus may our candlestick.

Reading: Revelation 2:8-11

Polycarp: the man willing to pay the price for his faith in Jesus Christ.

The city of Smyrna:

- A pulsating, city.
- A city
 - centre of Emperor worship
- A ----- city
 - pagan worship
 - the synagogue of Satan

To be a committed Christian in Smyrna was no easy journey

[1] What message did Jesus have for this COMMITTED, CHRIST-CENTRED CHURCH?

“..... on me” – v8

1. Focus on the CHRIST

Heb. 13:8

2. Focus on the JESUS

Heb. 2:8

3. Focus on the LORD

Phil. 2:10-11

[2] Jesus said: “I KNOW”

Jesus KNEW this was ...

1. An&church

2. A Church

3. A Church

4. Achurch

5. A & church

6. A church

7. A church

8. Achurch

Suffering has stalked the church right from the beginning.

1 Peter 2:21 – “Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.”

Tradition tells us:

- Peter & Bartholomew - crucified upside down
- Andrew died on a X shaped cross
- Matthew died by sword in Ethiopia
- Thomas was pierced with a lance
- Simon the Zealot was sawn in two
- Matthias & Paul was beheaded
- Philip died by hanging

The leadership of the Smyrna church set an incredible example.

“The uniqueness of this church in Smyrna is a credit to the courageous and a compliment to the flock who willingly walked in the way of their”

[3] To this suffering church of Smyrna, the message of Jesus was simply: v 10 - “be faithful”

WHAT DOES A FAITHFUL CHRIST CENTRED CHURCH LOOK LIKE?

This was a CHURCH

- “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Gal. 2:20)
- John 3 – Nicodemus – “you must be born again”
- 12Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. “ (Phil 2:12)
- For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1 Cor 1:18)
- 2For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. 3I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. 4My message and my preaching were not with persuasive words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, 5so that your faith would not rest on men’s wisdom, but on God’s power. (1 Cor 2: 2:2-5)

2. This was a CHURCH

3. This was a CHURCH

“martus” / “martureo”