**“WHICH CHURCH ARE YOU?”**

**Part 2**

**Revelation 2:8-11**

*“And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life: 9“I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. 10Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. 11“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.” ’*

1) The **CHURCH** at Smyrna was known for aggressively evangelizing the **CITY**, and as a

 result, the church **GREW** by leaps and bounds.

2) The church at **SMYRNA** represents a **PERIOD** of persecution for God’s **PEOPLE**

 from about **100** AD to 313 AD.

3) The first thing that the letter to the church at Smyrna teaches about **SUFFERING** is

 that all suffering has an **END** (v.10).

4) There are three types of suffering that we experience as it relates to **TIME**: 1)

 **SEASONS** of suffering, 2) **CHRONIC** or sustained suffering, and 3) catastrophic

 suffering.

5) When you are in **CHRIST**, there is no reason to **FEAR** suffering because suffering

 will end, but the presence of **GOD** with us will never end.

6) The second thing that the **LETTER** to the church at Smyrna teaches us about

 suffering is that suffering is intended to **BLESS** us.

7) There are four things that help us to **GROW** and mature spiritually so that the

 character of Christ can be developed in us: 1) **PRAYER**, 2) **BIBLE** Study, 3)

 **SERVING** others, and 4) **SUFFERING**.

8) We must learn to **VIEW** suffering not as curse, but as a **BLESSING** (James 1:2-4).