

# RECALIBRATE

CHRIST SPEAKS TO HIS CHURCH

PART 3

## Smyrna: The Church That Is Incredibly Rich

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**REVELATION 2:8-10**

*"These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even unto death, and I will give you the crown of life."*

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## SMYRNA THE CITY

- \* It was famous for its beauty.
- \* It was famous for its wealth.
- \* It was famous for its emperor worship
- \* It was famous for its influential Jewish community



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# SMYRNA THE CHURCH

- It was a little church in big trouble.
- It was a church of extremes: poor yet rich, persecuted yet protected.
- It was a church that was known by Jesus: "I know..." (v. 9)



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# SMYRNA

A Church of **EXTREMES**



## The extreme of distress:

*"I know your afflictions" vs 9*

**AFFLICTION: oppressive weight, crushing stress**

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# SMYRNA

A Church of **EXTREMES**



## The extreme of destitution:

*"I know your poverty" vs 9*

**POVERTY: beggary, absolute and utter destitution**

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# SMYRNA

A Church of **EXTREMES**



## The extreme of defamation:

*"I know the slander of the Jews, but they are not;  
they are a synagogue of Satan." vs 9*

**SLANDEROUS ACCUSATIONS:  
cannibalism, atheism and perversion.**

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# SYNAGOGUE

Literally, the *assembly* of God.

**Synagogue of Satan:** Those who profess to be  
God's people but who take on and promote the  
values of the world.

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# Promises *in Persecution*



## The Promise of **GROWTH**:

*"You will be put into prison to test you." vs 10*

**HARDSHIP** reveals how much we have  
grown and how much we can endure.

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# Promises *in Persecution*

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## *The Promise of PURPOSE:*

*"You will suffer persecution for ten days."* VS 10

**HARDSHIP** is always limited by  
God's sovereign purpose.

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# Promises *in Persecution*

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## *The Promise of VICTORY:*

*Be faithful, even unto death, and I will give  
you the crown of life."* VS 10

The "**CROWN OF LIFE**" is a  
Divine guarantee of forever.

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*"The sufferings of this present moment can't  
be compared with the glory that will be  
revealed in us in the eternal age."*

ROMANS 8:18

*"This light and momentary affliction is working  
for us to produce an eternal weight of glory."*

II CORINTHIANS 4:17

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*“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death.” vs 10*

## **SECOND DEATH**

**the final judgment of the unrepentant who steadfastly refuse God’s grace.**

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### **ROMANS 8:38-39**

*“Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

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## **Our Call to RECALIBRATE**

**We must RECALIBRATE our view of  
*riches.***

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**Our Call to  
RECALIBRATE**

**We must RECALIBRATE our view of  
*the church.***

NOVEMBER 1-2  
International Day of Prayer for the  
Persecuted Church

[www.opendoorsusa.org](http://www.opendoorsusa.org)

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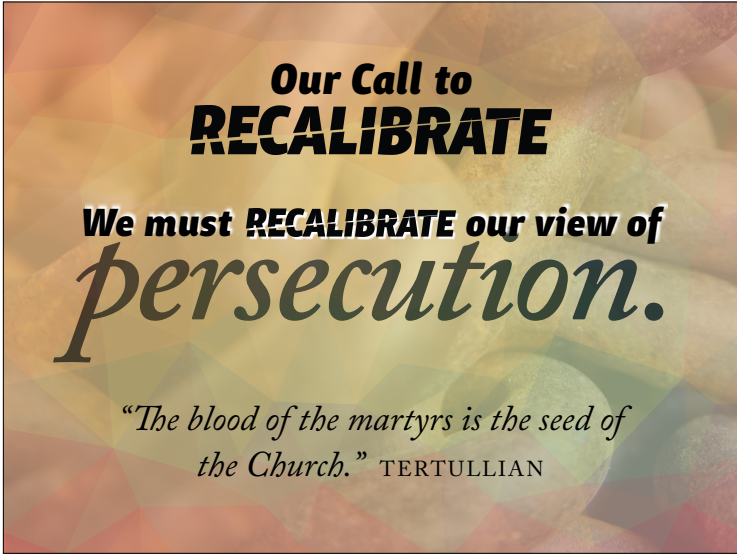
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**Our Call to  
RECALIBRATE**

**We must RECALIBRATE our view of  
*persecution.***

*“The blood of the martyrs is the seed of  
the Church.”* TERTULLIAN

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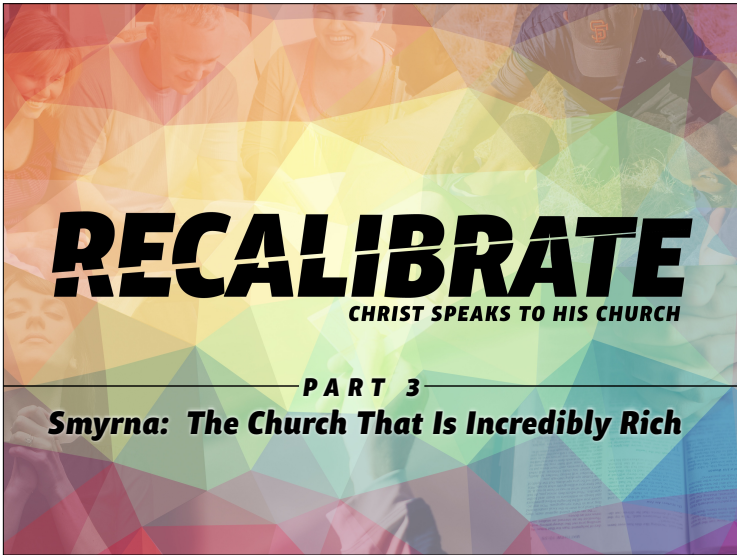
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**Smyrna: The Church That Is Incredibly Rich**

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