

# The Seven Churches of Asia

## Smyrna

Prayer — <sup>Help in</sup> Trials to overcome.

Hymns — 329 (109) Father of mercies

Item —

Reading — Rev 2. 8-17

Talk Memory aid.

V Smyrna (present day Izmir)

Beautiful/Picturesque

sloped down to sea

Westerly breeze (zephyr) blows from sea through every part of city

(Fresh & cool even in summer)

- Prob founded by Paul. AD 53-56

- Nothing Bad is said about S.  
The H Spirit seems to have blown through every part

He's Not being resisted  
grieved  
or quenched.

- Polycarp was pastor  
(a pupil of John).

Faithful to death — Burned at stake AD 155  
Asked to say 'Caesar is Lord'

Brought to stadium <sup>refused</sup> "Reproach Christ!"  
'Eighty six years have I served him, and he never did me any injury: how then can I blaspheme my King and my Saviour?'



V  
V8

... which was dead & is alive

First & Last repeated.  
All things begin end with Christ. Always relevant.

IV resurrection plant.

- we point you to living Saviour & Lord  
NOT Deaf/Dumb/Dead Idols.

Can any of things in world answer your prayers?

- Can the football team you support?
- Celebrities?
- Possessions?

Try finding consolation in clothes in wardrobe/trainers/DVD's/MP3's  
Computer games  
(They may seem alive but they're Not!)

- Is there an app to answer your prayers!

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth where moth & rust corrupt, thieves break in and steal"

You need many things  
But don't make them idols.

- Seek the living saviour 1st & Last Never need an upgrade!  
# Simple multiple choice (But some get it wrong!)

WHAT GIVES LIFE TO A DEAD MAN, BUT THE LACK OF IT  
KEEPS A LIVING MAN LIKE THE WALKING DEAD?

- A) A lightning bolt like Frankenstein's monster (or evolution)
- B) Regeneration through Christ's death and resurrection
- C) Cryogenic Freezing until cure found for death
- D) Just add water - like evolution on other planets (spontaneous generation).

Dead intruders x sins



VQA  
V  
\* Again God knows us. <sup>Work</sup>  
What a comfort - knows Trials & Troubles

(But thou art rich) <sup>even Poverty</sup>  
<sub>(they were poor)</sub>

• What so it to be rich?  
some who have alot of money are poor

Riddle - WHAT CAN CLOTHE A POOR MAN IN A  
KINGS ROBE, BUT IF A KING LACKS THIS  
THING, HE MIGHT AS WELL BE DRESSED IN  
RAGS?

A: Christ's Righteousness

• To be truly rich is to be rich in Spiritual possessions  
in FAITH  
~~GOOD WORKS~~ RIGHTEOUSNESS  
PRIVILEGES, SERVICE  
GIFTS  
HOPE

9B

I know  
The blasphemy of them that say they Jews but are not  
Rom 9.6  
Rom 2.28-29 Synagogue of Satan  
<sub>(Judaizers)</sub>

Like Nominal Christianity. Blasphemy!  
Church of Satan

- They underwent great Hardships.

Do you know the Lord?  
Do you seek the Lord?

Count the cost

You'll be - Misunderstood  
- Misrepresented / Accused falsely  
- Denied for your beliefs

People hostile to you, because you speak  
against their lifestyles.

- Scuffed at & mocked

2 Peter 3.3 In the last days scoffers shall come  
walking in their own lusts

Atheists, proud with their own conceits, employ  
comedy to jeer at Christians instead of polite debate.  
(As Christians we should not act in kind)



All this because  
- Men love darkness rather than light

- Am I trying to put you off?

No - I've already said  
You'll be rich!

Look you'll have a crown of life given you  
(if you overcome the world by faith).

- This may have made them think of  
wreath given victorious athlete.

[there was trial, sweat x pain in race  
But when finish line crossed  
all worth it)

"Fear not the things which you'll suffer"  
The burden is light christ will make it so.

[The devil shall cast some into prison]

But Paul was so full of peace & joy in prison  
He sang Hymns, wrote uplifting letters!

There'll be persecution one form or other

- Physical
- Political
- Intellectual

But don't fear

- While those who live in Ivory Towers  
and Feather beds in World  
(without Lord) can experience  
deep loneliness x miserery x emptiness

True Christians will be satisfied in their souls.

'Some laugh x sing while laying on stone,  
others lie on silk with whispers x moans!'

BUT WHY THE TRIALS? (That you may be tried)

- some Reasons :-
- To prove the Lord faithful x Bring Him Glory
  - To train us up for Life x Battle
  - To give experience so can comfort others
  - To teach x mould us. refine others



'Ye shall have tribulation 10 days'

The number of completion  
Take comfort - No more, no less  
than is decreed of the LORD.

The evil is of Satan  
(But we are not in his grip)  
We are in God's hands  
(Satan is a Fish in a bowl (O)  
a Dog on a leash (R))

'Be thou faithful unto death'

Some had to die a martyr's death like  
Polycarp.  
But make no mistake this verse  
not just for them.

We will All Die!  
Will you be faithful unto death?  
• if so (it is the Lord who saves  
and keeps you)  
• if not (You never knew Him  
& I'm afraid the death will hold terrors)

Again 'He that hath an ear...'

Have you got an ear to hear - How often we  
switch off.

Tell Like teacher in  
Charles Brown!

Do you hear what the Spirit says to the churches?

'Shall not be hurt of the second death'

What is death? - Separation of body & Soul  
What is second death? The Prison house of Hell.  
Then Body & Soul in Hell.  
Judgement Day

Eternal death!  
that Bottomless pit, Gehennah (The fires  
never went out)

Tell why  
under ground  
coal fires in India.



Sermon on Mount.

- If right hand offend cut it off into and cast away (that it perish but not whole body cast into Hell).

• Is there something keeping you from Lord?  
Cut it out of life!

• Christian - 2 Birthdays 1 death  
Non Christian - 1 Birthday 2 deaths!  
(deathday!) Born again

- The true Christian not hurt 2nd death  
Don't be like a man who drowned in a flood because he wouldn't let go of his safe!

(Man who died <sup>for</sup> because he developed a love of the taste of poison!)

TURN FROM SIN

- The true Christian will see Him in the end

• One day he'll stand whole

• The Storms of life over

stand on a great mountain Bright & New  
• in New Heavens & Earth

• Forever in the prime of life

• Surveying <sup>the</sup> wonders of everlasting glory

• Christ will shine on the scene

• while the waters that flow will flow  
from His throne!

• No more sorrow or tears.

• This is the resurrection & the life

