

ASIA-MINOR

Pergamon
Thyatira
Smyrna
Sardis
Ephesus
Philadelphia
Laodicea
Patmos



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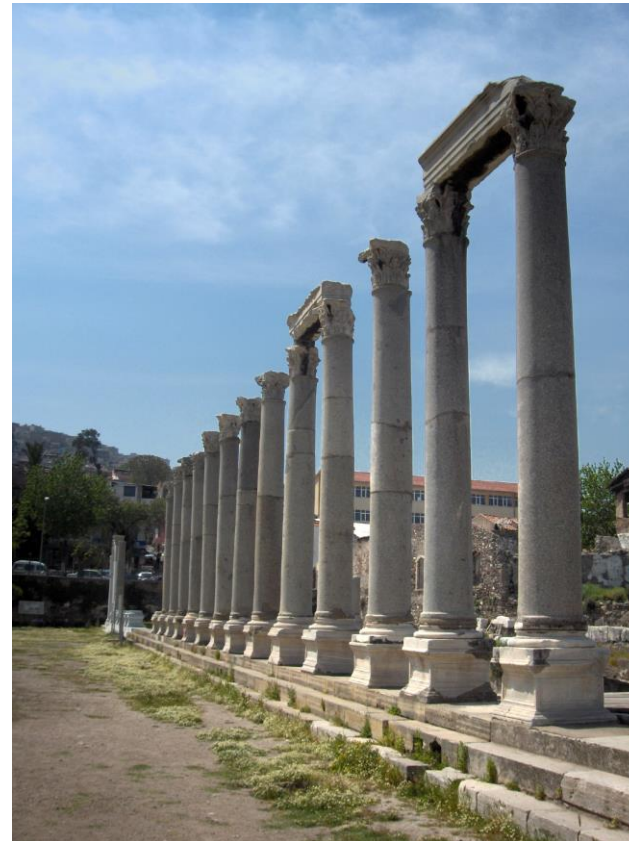
Letters to the 7 Churches

Lenten Lunch –
3/8/2022

The Letter to Smyrna

- About 35-40 miles northwest of Ephesus
- An important port city of the Roman Empire
- Maintained strong ties with Rome – first city to build a temple to the goddess Roma (195 BC) and the guardian of the second imperial cult temple in Asia (AD 26).” - J. Scott Duvall, *Revelation*, p. 51.

The Agora at Smyrna



Revelation 2:8-11

⁸“And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: ‘The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life. ⁹“‘I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. ¹¹He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.’

ESV Bibles. ESV Prayer Bible (p. 2932). Crossway. Kindle Edition.

Gold on the Surface

- Where have we seen this description of Christ in v. 8?
- Why is this particularly appropriate for this particular church?
- What is Christ's command in v. 10? Why is it necessary?
- Is there a precious promise at the end of this message?

Digging a little deeper

What are the five things
that Jesus assures them
He knows?

What is the danger this
Church faces? Do we
face a similar danger?

Where might we today
be tempted to
compromise in the vain
hope of lessening our
suffering?

How can we overcome
the fear of suffering?

What Comfort do we have from Christ?

- He is eternal (v. 8)
- He is victorious (v. 8)
- He is all-knowing (v. 9)
- He has the true and right perspective (v. 9)
- He is in control (v. 10)
- He is purposeful (v. 10)
- He is generous (vv. 10-11)

Moving forward by faith this Lent

- † Why is Lent a good time to think about suffering?
- † Why should we prepare for suffering as Christians?
- † How can you help others suffer well and overcome?

