

# Smyrna : The Suffering Church

Revelation 2 : 8-11

The logo for United Christian Church features the word "UNITED" in a large, dark serif font, with a red cross symbol integrated into the letter "I". Below "UNITED" is the phrase "CHRISTIAN CHURCH" in a smaller, dark, all-caps sans-serif font.

UNITED  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

# History

- City was founded in 1000 B.C.
- It was destroyed in 600 B.C.
- It was called glory of Asia.
- It was a crowned city.
- It was known for its faithfulness to Rome and enjoyed special status in the kingdom.

# History

- Aristide said “ Smyrna is like a great statue with the feet in sea; the middle part in the plain and the foothills; and the head crowned with the great buildings on the Pagos behind. He called it “a flower of beauty such as earth and sun had never showed to mankind”.
- City took its name from an incense Myrrh which was one of the main import product of this city.

# History

- This was the city where Polycarp the disciple of John was the bishop of the church and was martyred on Saturday, 23 February, 155 B.C.

# Reasons of Suffering

- Suffered for the Glory of God.
- They suffered because they were Christians.
- They suffered because they were poor.

# How did they Suffer?

- They were Pressured by the Jews and Pagans.
- They were not able to get any good jobs because they were Christians and were poor.
- They were persecuted. Their faith was slandered.

# Response to the suffering

Christ encouraged them by these words:

- I AM Alpha and Omega.
- I AM alive.
- Your sufferings are temporary.
- He commands them not to be afraid because He is with them.
- He wants them to know that they are rich in Him.
- He wants them to remain faithful till death.

# Response to the suffering

- The believers of Smyrna had an example of Polycarp to encourage them during their trials. He said “Eighty and six years have I served him, and he has done me no wrong. How can I deny Him?”

# Response to the suffering

- When Proconsul threatened him with burning on the Stake he said “ you threaten me with the fire that burns for a time, and is quickly quenched, for you do not know the fire awaits the wicked in the judgment to come and in everlasting punishment. Why are you waiting? Come, do what you will.”

# Reward of Suffering

- You will receive a Crown of Glory which will not fade and will last forever. James 1:12;2 Timothy 4:8;1 Peter 5:4.
- You will not see second death.

# CONCLUSION

- Sometime our suffering is simply for the glory of God and comes because you are believers in Christ. Our response should be to not be afraid because Christ is with us and he has overcome all this for us.

# CONCLUSION

- All our troubles are temporary. we should remain faithful till death and then, when we go home we will not face second death but receive a crown of Glory, life and righteousness from Our Savior.