

How Did the Church of Smyrna Face an Anti-Jesus Agenda?

Revelation 2:8-11

Introduction:

1. Daily the government and a anti-Jesus, liberal society are forcing us to walk in the footsteps of the Smyrna church.
2. All Christian monuments, symbols, and practices are the target of eradication by the liberals.
3. We now have a double standard of justice in America, which liberates and praises injustice from the immoral left, but throws the book at the moral and Christian agenda to squelch our voices and votes.
4. Will the church remain silent or stand, voting and voicing our stand for God and morality?
5. Some say I don't want to mix politics and Christianity, but that is not scriptural.
 - A. Moses went to Pharaoh and said, "Let my people go!" (Ex. 9:1).
 - B. Samuel went to King Saul & rebuked him as king (I Sam. 15:26).
 - C. Samuel anointed little David king over Israel (I Sam. 16:12-13).
 - D. Nathan rebuked King David for his sin (II Sam. 12:6-13).
 - E. Jeremiah rebuked Pashur and prophesied the Babylonian Captivity (Jeremiah 20:1-6).
 - F. Queen Esther went before the king to save the Jews (Est. 4:16).
 - G. Jesus called Herod "a fox" and went on with His divine agenda (Luke 13:31-33).
6. Here amidst the severe persecution to the church of Smyrna even to death, Jesus is saying I understand your sufferings, and I like what I am seeing among you.
7. Just remember, I have been where you are was Jesus's comforting words in Revelation 2:8.

THE SMYRNA CHRISTIANS MAY HAVE CRIED:

1. We are ostracized. Jesus said, I understand.
***He came unto His own, and His own received Him not.** (Jn 1:11)
2. We are unappreciated. Jesus said, I understand.
***And they said, Is not this Joseph's son**" (Lk 4:22) and **No prophet is accepted in his own country** (Lk 4:24b).
3. *We are poor.* Jesus said, I understand.
***And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man hath no where to lay His head** (Matt. 8:20).
4. We are almost naked. Jesus said, I understand.
***They part My garments among them and cast lots upon My vesture** (Psalms 22:18).
5. We are hungry. Jesus said, I understand.
***But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God** (Matt. 4:4).
6. We are thirsty. Jesus said, I understand.
***After this Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst** (Jn 19:28).
7. We are beaten. Jesus said, I understand.
***And said, Hail, King of the Jews! And they smote Him with their hands** (Jn 19:3).
8. We are mocked. Jesus said, I understand.
***Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted His raiment and cast lots** (Lk 23:34).
9. We are tempted to quit. Jesus said, I understand.
***Be not weary in well-doing for in due season you shall reap if you faint not** (Gal. 6:9).
10. We are facing death. Jesus said, I understand.
***For whosoever would save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for My sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it** (Mk. 8:35).

Conclusion:

1. I Corinthians 10:13

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not permit you to be tempted above that you are able, but will, with the temptation, also make the way to escape, that you may be able to bear it.

2. Hebrews 4:15

For we have not an high priest who cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

3. II Timothy 2:11-12

It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with Him, we shall also live with Him. If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him; if we deny Him, He also will deny us: