

The letter to the church in Smyrna

Revelation 2:8-11

Address

Characteristic of Jesus

Commendation

'I know...'

Rebuke

'Nevertheless...'

Call to turn back

Call to listen well

Reward for faithfulness

Address

1 Ephesus

Characteristic of Jesus

Commendation

'I know...'

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Address

1 Ephesus

Characteristic of Jesus

1 stars & lampstands

Commendation

'I know...'

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'Nevertheless...'

Call to turn back

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Reward for faithfulness

Address

1 Ephesus

Characteristic of Jesus

1 stars & lampstands

Commendation

'I know...'

2-3 good deeds, etc.

Rebuke

'Nevertheless...'

Call to turn back

Call to listen well

Reward for faithfulness

Address

1 Ephesus

Characteristic of Jesus

1 stars & lampstands

Commendation

'I know...'

2-3 good deeds, etc.

Rebuke

'Nevertheless...'

4 lost first love

Call to turn back

Call to listen well

Reward for faithfulness

Address

1 Ephesus

Characteristic of Jesus

1 stars & lampstands

Commendation

'I know...'

2-3 good deeds, etc.

Rebuke

'Nevertheless...'

4 lost first love

Call to turn back

5 repent

Call to listen well

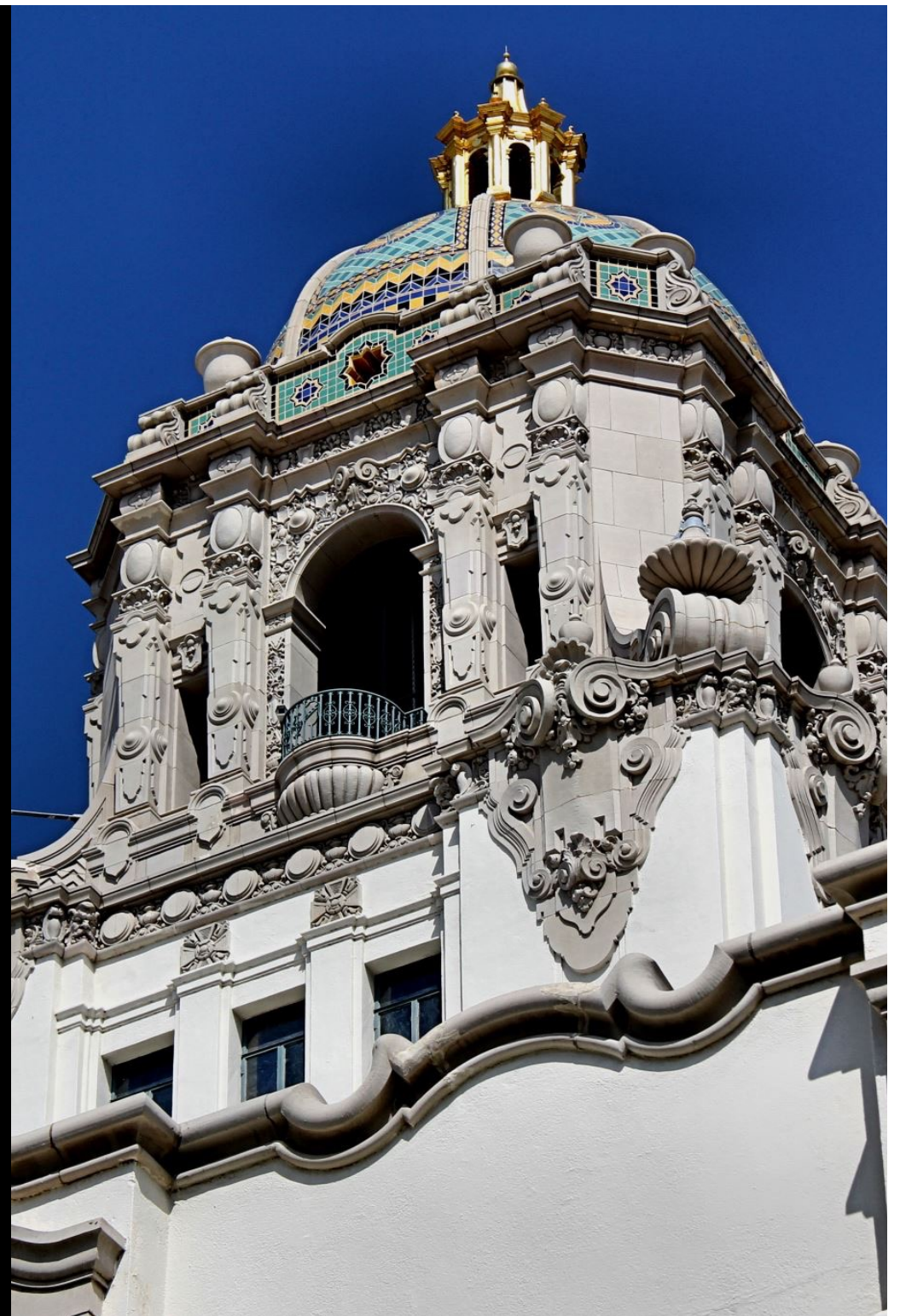
Reward for faithfulness

Address	1 Ephesus
Characteristic of Jesus	1 stars & lampstands
Commendation <i>'I know...'</i>	2-3 good deeds, etc.
Rebuke <i>'Nevertheless...'</i>	4 lost first love
Call to turn back	5 repent
Call to listen well	6 Whoever has ears...
Reward for faithfulness	

Address	1 Ephesus
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Call to turn back	5 repent
Call to listen well	6 Whoever has ears...
Reward for faithfulness	7 right to eat from the tree of life

Address v 8

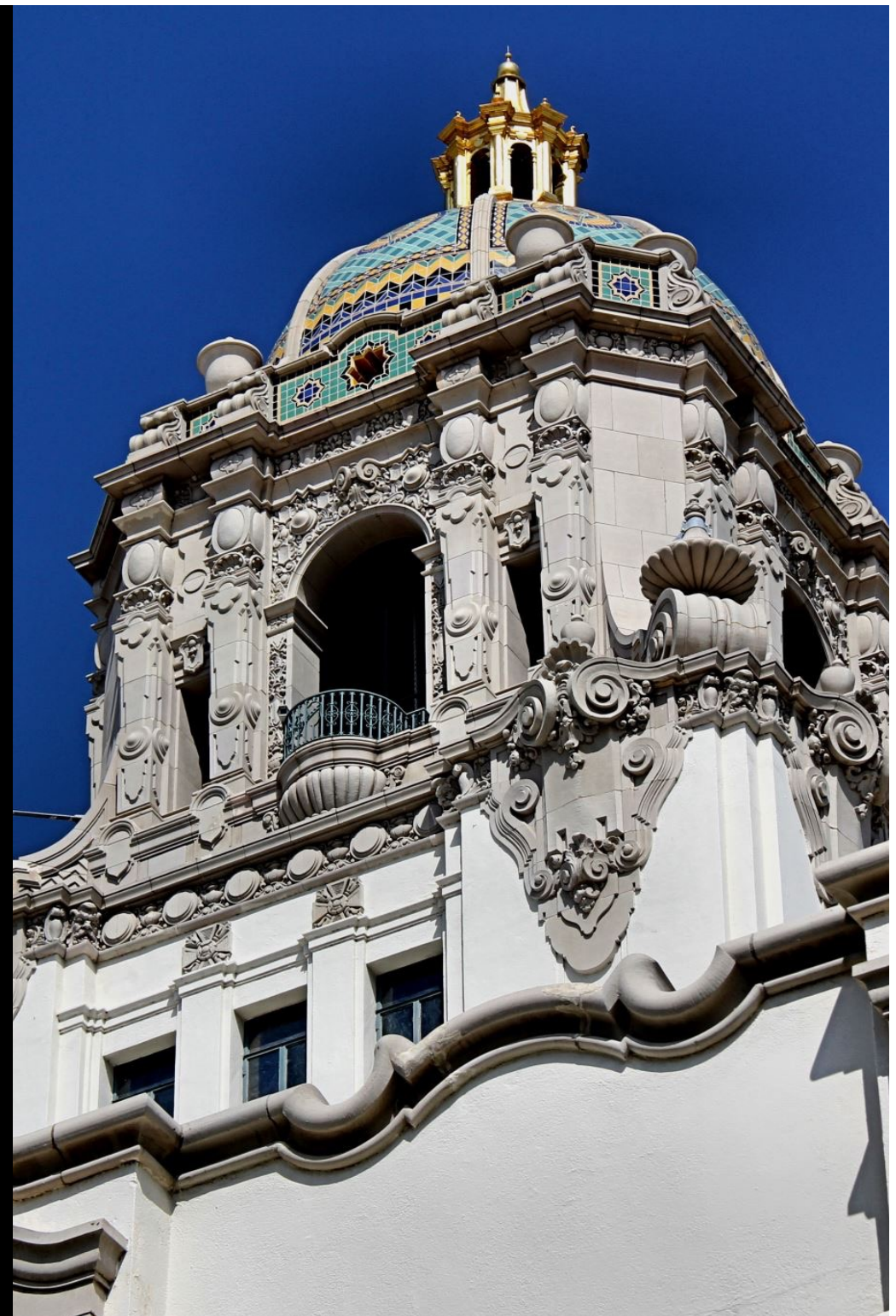
- 'To the angel of the church in Smyrna'
- modern İzmir





Address v 8

- 'To the angel of the church in Smyrna'
- Population
c.100,000
- Destroyed 600 BC;
refounded 290 BC
- 'Smyrna' = myrrh
- 'the crown of Asia'







Characteristic of Jesus v 8

- 'the first and the last'
1:17-18
- 'This is what the LORD says—Israel's King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God.'
Isaiah 44:6



Characteristic of Jesus v 8

- 'the first and the last'
1:17-18
- 'who died and came to life' 1:18
 - Jesus' resurrection as the bedrock of Christian faith
 - Smyrna had 'died and come to life'



Commendation v 9

- Suffering for faith in Jesus
 - afflicted and poor
 - 'not many wise or influential or of noble birth'
1 Cor 1:26
 - believers were generous

2 Corinthians 8:1-3

And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and **their extreme poverty** welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that **they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability.**



Commendation v 9

- Suffering for faith in Jesus
 - afflicted and poor
 - ‘not many wise or influential or of noble birth’
1 Cor 1:26
 - believers were generous
 - businesses boycotted
- persecuted by Jewish community



Commendation v 9

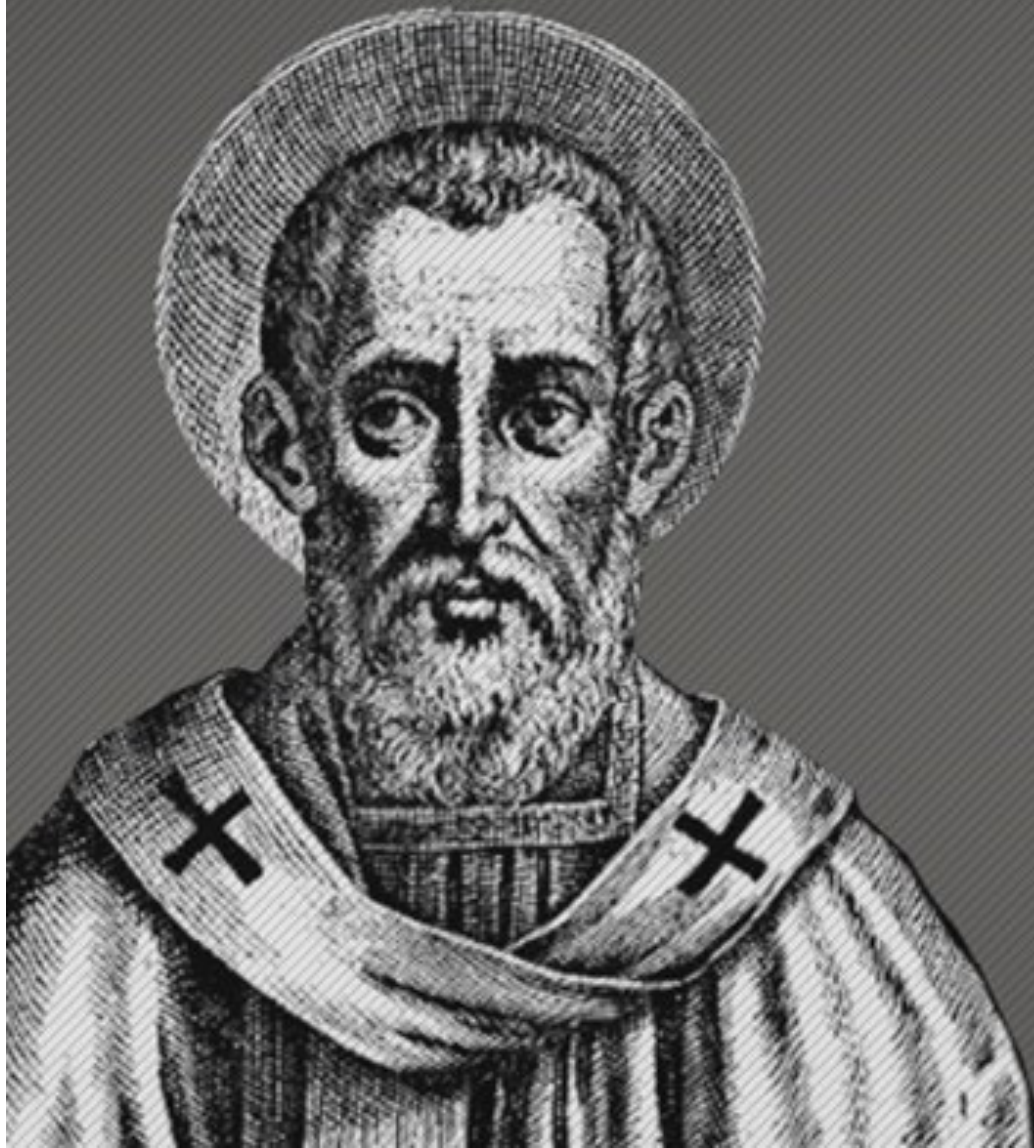
- Suffering for faith in Jesus
 - afflicted and poor
 - persecuted by Jewish community
 - **and yet rich!**
 - ‘Solid joys and lasting treasure, none but Zion’s children know’

Call to turn back

- Nothing!
- warning of future suffering
 - 'Do not be afraid...'
 - some will go to prison
 - some will be persecuted for ten days

Call to turn back

- Nothing!
- warning of future suffering
- **Jesus calls them to faithfulness**



POLYCARP

69–156

‘For eighty-six years I have been his servant, and he has done me no wrong. How can I blaspheme my king who saved me?’

‘You threaten with a fire that burns only briefly and after just a little while is extinguished, for you are ignorant of the fire of the coming judgment and eternal punishment, which is reserved for the ungodly.’



Thomas Bilney, died 19 August 1531

‘But now, this is what the LORD says—he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. **When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.** For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour’

Isaiah 43:1-3

Call to listen well v 11

- ‘Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’
 - call to attentive listening



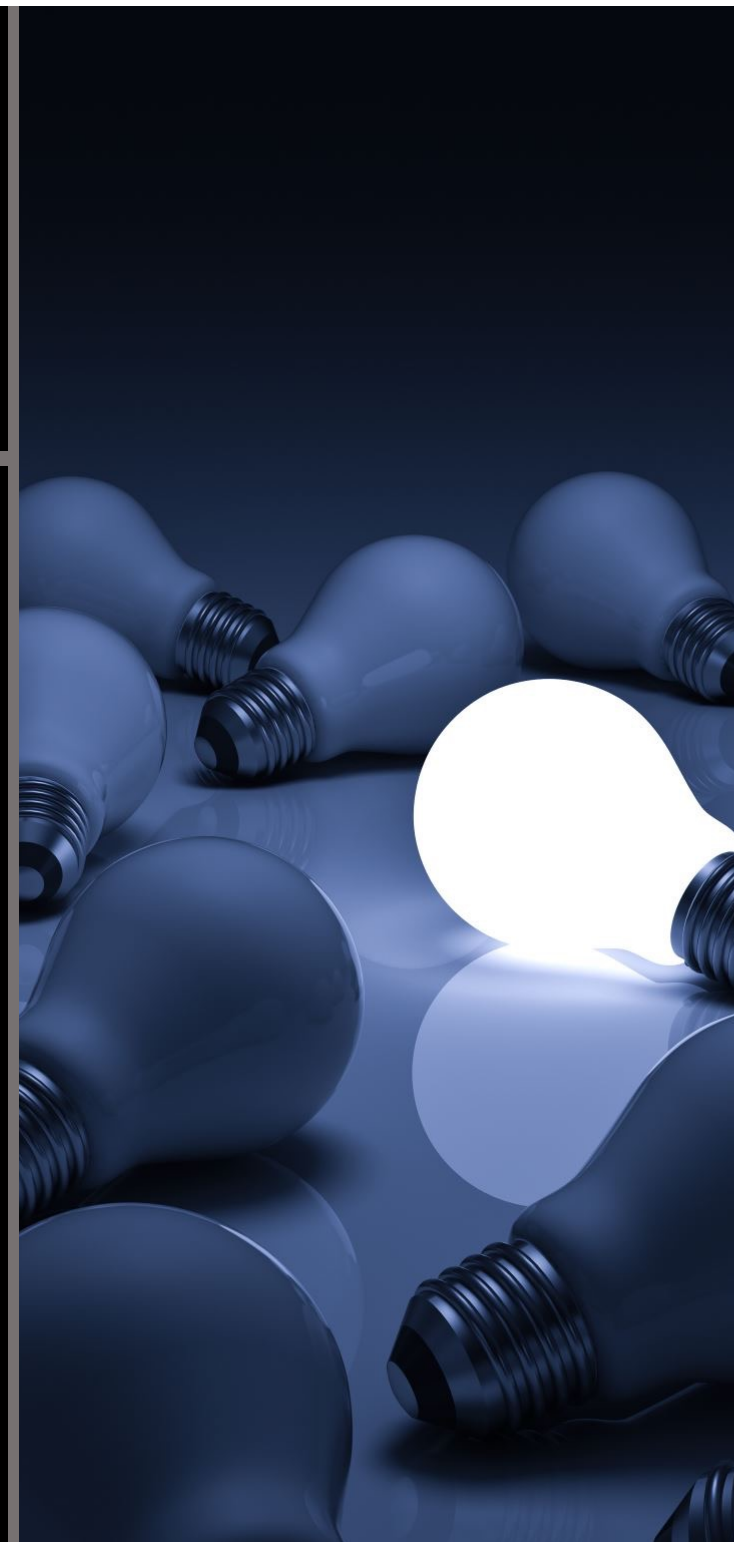
Jesus promises a reward for faithfulness

- 'life as your victor's crown'
v 10
 - he is the first and the last v 8
 - he died and came to life
v 8
- not hurt by second death v 11
 - 20:6, 14; 21:8 eternal death
 - 21:1-4 new Jerusalem



So keep remembering!

- Jesus knows the situation of those who suffer for him
- Jesus has shared in our suffering
- there is a great reward for those who are faithful, even to the point of death



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Acts and More

<http://steve walton.info>