Seven Churches Of Asia Series:

Smyrna: The Persecuted Church
Rev. 2:8-11

Introduction:

A. Smyrna:
   1. Beautiful city about 50 miles north of Ephesus.
   2. Birthplace of Homer.
   3. Home of Polycarp.
B. Let us notice the various parts of this letter:

Discussion:

I. The Description of Christ In This Letter (vv. 1,2)
   A. “The First.”
      1. Origin of all things. (John 1:1; 8:58; Col. 1:15-17).
      2. Should be first with us. (Matt. 6:33).
   C. “Which was dead, and is alive.”
      1. Had been through what they were no experiencing.
      2. Death, Burial and Resurrection fundamental to gospel. (1 Cor. 15:1-4).
         a. Died for our sins. (Rom. 5:8).
         b. Arose for our justification. (Rom. 4:25).
   D. “I know.” (Prov. 15:3).

II. The Condition Of The Church At Smyrna.
   A. Her good points:
      2. Tribulations for Christ. (2 Tim. 3:12; Matt. 5:11,12)
         b. Poverity may have been due to persecution - trade guilds.
      3. Spiritually rich but materially poor.
         a. Jesus had experienced this. (Matt. 8:20; 2 Cor. 8:9).
         b. Treasures in heaven. (Matt. 6:19).
   B. No bad points.

III. The Advice To The Church At Smyrna.
      1. “Fear not” is found many times in Bible.
      2. Many reasons for a Christian not to be overly fearful.
      3. Some fear is natural and normal. (cf. 1 Cor. 2:3; 2 Cor. 7:5)
   B. “Be Faithful...” (v. 10,11).
      Note: Two Births and Two Deaths.

Conclusion:

1. A church with no condemnation or threat.
2. Would this be the case if the Lord were writing to us.
3. What about you personally.