



# Leader

10/8 - Revelation 2:8-11

## LOVE

**A new commandment I give to you, that you love *one another*... (John 13:34)**

- *Internal*: How was your week...anything new?! How was your walk with the Lord this week?
- *External*: Is there any individual or family who is struggling or needs encouragement from us?

## TRUTH

**Let the word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing *one another*... (Col. 3:16)**

1. When you reflect on the message from Sunday, what most resonated with you?  
[Dialogue]
2. Let's read the primary text. John is charged with writing to the angel of the church. Who might this be?  
It is not known for sure, but it is probable that the angels (or divine messengers) are pastors of each local church.
3. What do we know about the city of Smyrna? Does anyone recall anything from the Bible?  
The name Smyrna means "myrrh" (a sweet perfume used to embalm dead bodies). Smyrna is modern-day Izmir, the only city of the seven cities listed in Revelation still in existence. It is located 35 miles north of Ephesus. Smyrna was a beautiful city that was known for its pagan and emperor worship. It had close ties with Rome and was the only city that showcased a temple built for Tiberius Caesar (AD 14-37), who reigned during Christ. All this considered, Smyrna was a hostile environment for Christians.
4. Verse 9 says that those in Smyrna were poor, but rich? What does this mean?  
Many in Smyrna were in poverty due to religious opposition. They were a marked people that were ostracized by those around them. Jesus saw them as rich; materially they had little, but spiritually they had everything.
5. Antisemitism has become somewhat of a buzzword in our culture due to some who have expressed hateful speech. Some have used verse 9 in this text as justification for their hate. How should true Christians view Jewish people?  
We should treat them as fellow image bearers, with all the love and respect that God has for them.  
It is also important to remember:
  - Jesus was a Jew
  - All 12 Apostles were Jews
  - The whole Bible was written by Jews (except for maybe Luke)
  - Jesus said, "Salvation is from the Jews" (Jn 4:22)
  - To be a Christian is to be grafted into the covenant of Abraham (a Jew) (Rom 11:17-24)
  - To become a Christian is to become "Jewish" --- a child of Abraham by faith (Gal 3:7)

6. Crowns are mentioned several times in the Bible for those who are faithful. What types of crowns do you recall? What is the purpose of these crowns?

Crowns point to the joy of salvation; one who has overcome and has been granted eternal life.

- Crown of life (Rev. 2:10; also Jas 1:12)
- Crown of righteousness (2 Tim 4:8)
- Crown of glory (1 Pet 5:4)
- Crown of gold (Rev 4:4)
- Crown of rejoicing (1 Thess 2:19)
- Crown of incorruption (1 Cor 9:25)

7. Verse 11 mentions a "second death"; what is that?

There is something that is far worse than death; it is the second death. Jesus describes the first death being our physical death. The second death is a spiritual and eternal death...Hell. Matthew 10:28 says, "men may kill the body, but they cannot destroy the soul." Only God has the power to determine the outcome of the soul.

8. Any closing thoughts concerning this text? What have you learned? How does this text apply to us?  
[Dialogue]

## GREAT COMMISSION

**Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (Matt. 28:19-20)**

- Did you disciple your family well this week? Is Jesus the reason for your hope in your daily activity?

## CONFESSION/PRAYER/REPENTANCE

**But exhort *one another* every day, as long as it is called "today,"... (Heb. 3:12-14)**

- Confession is agreeing with God about our sin according to the Scriptures. Is there anything you want to confess before the group? [*apathy, idolatry, selfishness, jealousy, anger, envy*]
- Let's pray, asking God to help us apply His word to our lives, putting to death sinful desires.

**HOMEWORK:** Meditate on our weekly "Fighter Verse" - Proverbs 31:30. How did last week's verse affect you? Did it cause you to pause or change anything as you progressed through the week?

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Akin, Danny. *Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in Revelation*. Pp. 42-54.