

# SESSION 17

# REVELATION

# 2:8-11

## (DOCTRINAL APPLICATION, PART 1)

### THE LAST SESSION IN 10 TWEETS

1. WordStrong is strategically designed to call people to and move people toward TRUE BIBLICAL UNITY. #WordStrong
2. We're calling it TRUE BIBLICAL UNITY b/c there is such a thing as FALSE UNBIBLICAL UNITY. #WordStrong
3. False unity focuses on PEOPLE. True unity focuses on TRUTH. #WordStrong
4. False unity says, "Doctrine DIVIDES, so LET GO of it!" #WordStrong
5. True unity says, "Doctrine UNITES, so HOLD tenaciously to it!" #WordStrong
6. In false unity, MAN seeks to separate believers FROM the truth. #WordStrong
7. In true unity, GOD seeks to separate believers UNTO the truth. #WordStrong
8. False unity focuses on the GLOBAL church. True unity focuses on the LOCAL church. #WordStrong
9. Jesus is not waiting for US to answer His prayer for unity in Jn.17. #WordStrong
10. Jesus answered the prayer for unity thru His own death, burial & resurrection. Gal. 3:28 #WordStrong

## A FEW REMINDERS OF WHERE WE'VE BEEN...

### ◆ Reminders about the 7 letters to the 7 churches in Revelation 2 and 3.

1. The HISTORICAL APPLICATION.  
These are \_\_\_\_\_ churches in Asia Minor in 90 A.D., addressing \_\_\_\_\_ situations there.
2. The DEVOTIONAL (or Inspirational) Application.  
These churches are representative of \_\_\_\_\_ of churches. (i.e. The \_\_\_\_\_ of these churches can be found in churches throughout history.)
3. The DOCTRINAL (or Prophetic) Application  
These churches are representative of \_\_\_\_\_ of church history. (From the death of the \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the church)

### ◆ Reminders about the first letter to the church at Ephesus (Rev. 2:1-7)

- The name "Ephesus" means " \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_."
- It is representative of the period of church history from approximately \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ A.D.
- Characteristics...
  
- The Result...

### ◆ The Letter to the Church of Smyrna (Doctrinal Application)

#### 1. **COMMISSION** (Rev. 2:8a)

*"And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write..."*

- This church is representative of the period of church history from c. \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ A.D.  
(Around the time of the infamous Council of \_\_\_\_\_.)
- The name "Smyrna" means \_\_\_\_\_.  
*Matt. 2:11-*  
  
*John 19:39-*

- Myrrh is a \_\_\_\_\_ substance that came from a certain tree in that part of the world. It was very \_\_\_\_\_ to the taste, but very \_\_\_\_\_ in its aroma.
- Myrrh was used many times as a costly \_\_\_\_\_, but was mainly used in the whole process of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Myrrh is associated with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- Remember! The name of the church is significant because it is God's \_\_\_\_\_ of what was taking place in that period of history from His vantage point.

**2. CHARACTER** (Rev. 2:8b)

*“These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive.”*

- *“The first and the last”—*
- *“Which was dead, and is alive”—*

**3. COMMENDATION** (Rev. 2:9-10)

**A. It was an intensely \_\_\_\_\_ church.**

*“I know thy...tribulation...”* (Rev. 2:9b)

*“Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer...”* (Rev. 2:10a)

*“Behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried...”* (Rev. 2:10b)

- Remember the definition of Church History:  
\*It is the movement of \_\_\_\_\_ through the course of time, nations, and people in the Church Age to accomplish His threefold plan for the universe, the earth, and your life...AND (!) It is the movement of the \_\_\_\_\_ to counter, counterfeit, and confound that plan.  
  
\*Notice that \_\_\_\_\_ is in power at this time— but the Lord Jesus Christ doesn't say “\_\_\_\_\_ shall cast some of you into prison.”  
Why? Because it was the \_\_\_\_\_ moving against God's plan through the church.  
Rome was simply Satan's \_\_\_\_\_!  
In the Church Age, Rome has always \_\_\_\_\_ and will always \_\_\_\_\_ the tool of Satan!

*“And ye shall have tribulation ten days...” (Rev. 2:10c)*

- The Ten Official Roman Persecutions
  - ❖ The First Persecution, Under Nero, 67 A.D.
  - ❖ The Second Persecution, Under Domitian, 81 A.D.
  - ❖ The Third Persecution, Under Trajan, 108 A.D.
  - ❖ The Fourth Persecution, Under Marcus Aurelius Antonius, 162 A.D.
  - ❖ The Fifth Persecution, Commencing With Severus, 192 A.D.
  - ❖ The Sixth Persecution, Under Maximus, 235 A.D.
  - ❖ The Seventh Persecution, Under Decius, 249 A.D.
  - ❖ The Eighth Persecution, Under Valerian, 257 A.D.
  - ❖ The Ninth Persecution, Under Aurelian, 274 A.D.
  - ❖ The Tenth Persecution, Under Diocletian, 303 A.D.

**B. In spite of its persecution, it still was a church that carried out the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.**

*“I know thy works, and tribulation...” (Rev. 2:9a,b)*

- ❖ The more the church was \_\_\_\_\_, the more it \_\_\_\_\_.  
But, though persecuting malice raged, yet the Gospel shone with resplendent brightness, and, firm as an impregnable rock, withstood the attacks of its boisterous enemies with success. Tertullian, who lived in this age, informs us that if the Christians had collectively withdrawn themselves from the Roman territories, the empire would have been greatly depopulated. \*

\*Fox’s Book of Martyrs, 12.

**C. Financially and materially this was a \_\_\_\_\_ church, but \_\_\_\_\_ it was \_\_\_\_\_.**

*“I know thy poverty, (but thou art rich).” (Rev. 2:9c)*

- ❖ Contrast that with what God said about the \_\_\_\_\_ church.