

JULY 10, 2022

# CHURCH OF CHRIST



*1002 Clairmont Avenue, Cambridge, Ohio 43725*  
*(740) 432-7486*

*Web Site: [www.cambridgechurchofchrist.com](http://www.cambridgechurchofchrist.com)*

*E-Mail: [info@cambridgechurchofchrist.com](mailto:info@cambridgechurchofchrist.com)*

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

### SUNDAY:

Bible Classes.....9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship.....10:30 a.m.  
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY:

Bible Classes.....6:00 p.m.

*Minister, John Keith*  
*(304) 266-9027*

**WELCOME!**

We invite you to all of our services.

*“...the churches of Christ salute you” (Romans 16:16)*

# CHURCH OF CHRIST AT SMYRNA

## INTRODUCTION: Revelation 2:8-11

1. Shortest of the 7 letters
2. Nothing known about the establishment of the congregation.
3. Located in Asia Minor (modern Turkey)
  - A. 1<sup>st</sup> Smyrna est. circa 1K B.C. on a mountainside
    - 1) Thought to be impregnable; not so, fell 600 B.C.
    - 2) Rebuilt by Alexander the Great who moved its location nearly 2 mi. to the coast of the Aegean Sea.
  - B. A large seaport
  - C. Population mostly anti-Christian Jews—Polycarp martyred here
  - D. “Crown city” or “first city” known for beauty, literature, aqueducts, Roman culture, and loyalty
  - E. Boasted many temples
    - 1) Dionysus, god of fruitfulness and wine
    - 2) Roma, Roman goddess (195 B.C.)
    - 3) Emperor Tiberius 23 B.C.

## DISCUSSION:

### **I. THE COUNSELOR (8).**

- A. Christ’s Salutation (8a): to the messenger, representative, eldership.
- B. Christ’s Description (8b).
  1. The First and the Last (see; 1:11, 17, 2:19; 22:13).
    - a. Smyrna thought they were first
    - b. Whatever greatness Smyrna had achieved, Christ was greater!
    - c. Alpha and Omega (see; 1:8, 11; 21:6; 22:13).
  2. Formerly Dead, Now Living
    - a. See; **1:17-18**
    - b. This church needed reassured that though Christ had been killed, He was alive for evermore.
    - c. They were suffering and would suffer—needed this encouragement—Christ has their back; even if martyred, He has authority over death.
    - d. We have a resurrected, living Savior; not a dead, dumb idol like heathen priests who hold mock resurrections for their hand-made images.

### **II. THE COMMENDATION (9).**

- A. Christ Knew Their Works.
  1. Christ omniscient- (Jn. 2:24; 21:17).
  2. The church was not dead; they put forth significant effort.

- B. Christ Knew Their Tribulation
  - 1. “Tribulation”—to suffer severely w/ great hardship, crushing, grinding.
  - 2. Contextually, if not by the Romans, then from the Jews
- C. Christ Knew Their Poverty.
  - 1. Possible their poverty due to confiscation of property by the persecutors.
  - 2. Although poor materially, rich spiritually (works and longsuffering).
- D. Christ Knew the Blasphemy Against Them.
  - 1. Blasphemy means evil speaking designed to be injurious
  - 2. Spoke evil of Jesus, no doubt, and His followers, “the hanged one” (cf. Gal. 3:13; 1 Cor. 1:23).
  - 3. Those who claimed to be real Jews but were not (Rom. 2:28-29).

### III. THE COUNSEL (10).

- A. Be Fearless
  - 1. There would be more tribulation to face; Jews and Nero would not let up
  - 2. “The devil” (Nero Caesar?) would imprison many Christians in an effort to get them to recant their faith in Christ (cf. Mt. 24:9-13).
  - 3. Tribulation 10 days: a brief time compared to the eternal crown of life
    - a. In NT, “crown of life” a metaphor=eternal life
    - b. “Crown” (1 Cor. 9:25; 2 Tim. 4:8; Jas. 1:12).
    - c. Jesus told them to expect greater persecution in the future
- B. Be Faithful! —Keep on being faithful even as you approach death!
  - 1. This is exactly how Christ faced His crucifixion
  - 2. He appeared to lose the battle, however, CHRIST WON!
    - a. The grave could not keep Him (Psa. 16:10; Acts 2:27),
    - b. Neither will it keep us (2 Tim. 2:11; Jn. 5:28-29).

### IV. THE CHALLENGE (11).

- A. He Who Hears: Everyone with the faculty of hearing/understanding must heed what Christ is saying—give the strictest attention.
- B. He Who Overcomes
  - 1. This is our personal responsibility:
    - a. Q: How can we be victorious conquerors if we are martyred?
    - b. A: (Rom. 8:35-37).
  - 2. By remaining faithful to Christ, we subdue all of enemies, therefore we shall not be touched by the second death, which is eternal damnation (Rev. 20:6, 14; 21:8).

*Welcome! To our visitors! We are thankful for your presence. Please fill out one of the blue cards and place it in one the collection plates.*

**TODAY'S LESSONS**

**AM:** The church of Christ at Smyrna (Rev. 2:8-11.

**PM:** Simon Says part 2 (Matt. 26:31-33)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- **Tiffanie Endly** is done with Chemo but is now recovering form COVID.
- Our *Summer Series* continues this Wednesday at 6 p.m. Our speaker will be **Terry Townsend** from the New Concord church, covering Matthew 5:13-48).
- “Thank you all for keeping me in your prayers and sending cards during my recent surgery. I am walking a lot better than what I have been the past 6 months. Also thank you for the cards on my recent birthday. Hope to be back real soon. In Christian Love, **Cathy Jackson**”.
- Also, there is a “thank you” note on the foyer board from **John and Carrie Love**. We helped them with some medical bills. John is the son of the late minister, **Frank Love**.

**REMINDERS:**

- ❖ We are planning a money tree for **Lucas and Amanda Watson**. To contribute, please see **Demetra** or **Brenda** before July 24th.
- ❖ Those wishing to update their picture, please see **Brenda Warne**.
- ❖ Please inform **John** of any changes to the prayer list, or directory.
- ❖ Remember our library.

AM Study	AM Worship	PM Worship	Wed.	Contribution (Budget)
39	62	33	34	\$ 2626 (\$2,420)

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** Diann Bachmann, Betsy Cook, Erma Endly, Mike & Karen Grove, Cathy Jackson, Bruce & Kim Johnson, Gary Jones, Rick Lambert, Carol Mitchell, Jean Whitley.

**SHUT-INS:**  
Debbie Jones,  
Nancy Love,  
Randy Yost

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS:** **Debra Bates-Phillabaum, Weston Boulet** (great-grandson of Shirley Patterson), **Rachell Cook** (Angela Herald’s friend), **Tiffany Endly** (Jerri Mackie’s niece), **Bob Henthorn** (Laura Jamiel’s dad), **Trudy Kerby, Colleen Kiester** (Mo Smith’s sister), **Linda Potts** (Joyce Starrett’s sister-in-law), **Tim Potts** (Joyce Starrett’s nephew), **Addy Reed, Rodney Reeves** (Erica Cunningham’s father), **John Rockhold, Wilma Roe, Sidney Suttles** (Diann Bachmann’s friend), **Bob & Marge Watson, Ukraine** and remember to pray for **one another**.