

“Satanic Opposition”
Revelation 2:8-11
7/19/26
Message 5

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “Satanic Opposition”

- **Review – Running Start**

- **1. Revelation is the ONLY book with a Divine Outline in it**

Revelation 1:19 (NKJV)

19 *Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.*

- 3 Sections

- 1. Chapter 1 –

- *Which you have seen*

- Presents: We see the Glorified Christ / He whom He has seen

- 2. Chapters 2-3

- *The things which are*

- The Churches

- THE CHURCH AGE - Focus is on The Lord's People

- **Show Timeline**

- 3. Chapters 4-22

- *And the things which will take place after this.*

- There we discover the Lord's Program
- Prophecy what will come to pass
- **2. 7 Letters to The Churches - VERY Important Messages**
 - **Sadly many people don't want to read Jesus' Letters in Chapters 2-3**
 - Many Believers like to skip Chapters 2 & 3 to get to the "More Juicy Parts."
 - **These 7 letters are Powerful letters FILLED with Urgency**
 - They reveal our Lord's Heart for the Church
 - Revels the Problems in the church
 - Fitting That – Judgment Begins in the House of the Lord (1 Peter 4:17)
 - *Walvoord; "Many of the evils and shortcomings which exist in the church today are a direct outgrowth of neglect of the solemn instruction given to these seven churches."*
 - We would do well to LISTEN
- **3rd The Messages have a 4 Fold Application**
 - **1. PAST – (HISTORICALLY)**
 - 7 Original Churches in 7 real cities in Asia
 - Given in Order of ancient Roman postal route
 - **Show Map**
 - **2. PRACTICALLY**

- They teach us a lot about Church life
- Admonishment from Jesus –
 - To all churches in all time as tests by which they may discern their true spiritual state in the sight of God
 - Almost Every problem, difficulty & the Challenges facing the Church are addressed in these 7 letters

▪ 3. PERSONALLY

- The Letters apply to us individually as Believers that is why each one ends with the same Exhortation
 - *"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."*

▪ 4. PROPHETICALLY

- 7 is # of COMPLETENESS
- What we have is a picture of the Complete Church Age
- **Show Timeline**
 - Today – Smyrna 11-312 A.D.

○ 4. Each Letter has a Similar outline

- 1. There is a Divine Revelation of Jesus
 - Each Church a different description of Jesus from Chapter 1
- 2. Positive AFFIRMATION
- 3. Corrective EXHORTATION

- Smyrna and Philadelphia are the only ones not to receive correction
- They are the persecuted church and the church with little strength

▪ 4. Eternal MOTIVATION

• **This Morning Let's Look At The Second Church**

○ **Smyrna the Persecuted Church**

- Satanic Opposition

○ **5 main points**

- The Context - Historical Background v. 8a
- The Characteristics that are Reveled About Jesus v. 8b
- The Commendation That Jesus Gives v. 9
- The Command That Jesus Gives to Encourage Them v. 10
- The Comfort He Promises vv. 10b-11

The Context - Historical Background v. 8a

• **1. Angel Of The Church**

○ **1. Who is "The Angel" of the Church?**

Revelation 2:8 (NKJV)

8 "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, 'These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:

▪ **There are 2 major Viewpoints:**

- 1. The "Angel" is the Pastor of the church.
 - The idea here centers on the broad meaning of the word angel as "a messenger"

- John was addressing the pastor of each church
- 2. The "Angel" is an Angel
 - Simply a supernatural being, one of the seven angels mentioned throughout Revelation...
 - Allows to interrupt the text literally

- **2. What Do We Know about Smyrna v. 8b**

Revelation 2:8 (NKJV)

8 “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, ‘These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:

- **1. Location**
 - **About 35 miles North of Ephesus –**
 - **Show Church Map**
- **2. Brief History Of Smyrna**
 - A beautiful city on the western shore of Turkey called Izmir
 - **Show Pics x 3**
 - Pic 1 - What it was like
 - In ancient times it was called the
 - Beauty of Asia
 - City of Life and Strength
 - Pic 2 & 3 - Modern
 - It was also a seaport city like Ephesus...
 - Also very Wealthy...

- Famous for its loyalty to Rome
 - In A.D. 26 Emperor worship, became the focus

• **3. The Suffering at Smyrna**

○ **1. Smyrna = MYRRH**

- Smyrna Means - Port of Myrrh...
 - The chief product of that city – MYRRH –
- MYRRH
 - Was an embalming spice used in Biblical times
 - Myrrh is a very sweet fragrance
 - BUT IT MUST BE CRUSHED
 - In order to give off its AROMA
 - Appropriate Name
 - Because the church there was being CRUSHED through persecution
 - The more they were "CRUSHED"
 - The more the fragrance of Christ was given off from their Lives

○ **2. Reason For The Suffering – Persecution**

- The City was deeply Committed to Idolatry
 - They had a Long History of Idol worship
 - They had - A Street to All their gods

- On one famous street in Smyrna –
 - Was called the “Golden Street”
 - Stood magnificent temples to their gods –
 - Cybele, Apollo, Asklepios, Aphrodite, and a great temple to Zeus –
- **But the worship of those pagan gods was dying out.**
 - The real focus was on the worship of the Roman Emperor.
 - The worship of the Roman Emperor was the issue of the Day
- **Focus on Rome**
 - In 196 B.C. they built the first temple to Dea Roma –
 - The goddess of Rome,
 - The spiritual symbol of the Roman Empire.
 - Once the “spirit” of Rome was worshipped
 - It wasn’t much of a step to worship
 - The Dead Emperors of Rome.
 - Then another small step to worship the Living Emperors
 - And to demand such worship as evidence of Political allegiance and Civic pride
 - In A.D. 23 Smyrna won the privilege (over 11 other cities)

- To build the first temple to worship the Emperor Tiberius Caesar.

- Smyrna was a leading city in the Roman cult of Emperor worship.

- **Worship Of Emperor**

- The Roman Emperor Domitian (A.D. 81-96)
 - He was the first to demand worship under the title “Lord”
- Emperor Worship - What did this Worship look like?
 - Once a year the Roman citizen must burn a pinch of incense on the altar to the godhead of Caesar
 - Having done so, he was given a certificate to guarantee that he had performed his religious duty
 - They didn't care if you worship others gods – you just had to make sure you worship the Emperor
 - That ALL you had to do was walk in pinch some incense throw it on an altar – get your certificate and you are on your way – to worship as many gods as you wanted
 - All that the Christians had to do was to burn that pinch of incense, say, ‘Caesar is Lord,’ receive their certificate, and go away and worship as they pleased.

- **Christians...**

- Christians would not do!!!!
 - They would give no man the name of Lord

- That name belongs ONLY to JESUS
- They would not even formally conform
 - They would NOT BOW
 - This is the REASON for the Persecution
- Example of suffering
 - Polycarp
 - Who was a disciple of the apostle John
 - Bishop of Smyrna
 - On February 22, 166
 - Polycarp was burned at the stake.
 - "86 years have I served Him and He has done me no wrong.
 - How can I blaspheme my King who saved me?"
 - Many more Christians were martyred
 - At one point 1,500
 - Later, 800 more on Mt. Pagus
 - This was a CHURCH that Suffered MUCH for the Gospel

• **4. What Jesus Christ Says to Smyrna and to US**

- **1. We are in a BATTLE - Spiritual**

Ephesians 6:12–13 (NKJV)

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

- Our fight is not against the flesh it is for the souls of man (spiritual)

○ **2. The WORLD is NOT our friend**

John 15:18–20 (NKJV)

18 “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.

19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

20 Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

- Sadly, many Christians don't see this...

○ **3. Sadly Many Christians are asleep to this battle**

- **We should ALL be prepared**

- Part of my job is to warn the church – WATCH MAN
- Hostility will come to all who live for the Lord and honor Him in their lives

- **Current Examples:**

- Our Current Persecution is White Collar
 - But make no mistake – it is persecution
- Examples
 - Florist - Bakers – Remember
 - Sued - Put out of business

- Social Media Censorship
 - Not allowed to speak Truth
 - Post taken DOWN
 - Zuckerberg admitted the Biden Administration pressure on him to take post down
 - https://www.google.com/search?q=Zuckerberg+admitted+the+Biden+Administration+pressure+on+him+to+take+post+down&gs_lvs=1&sourceid=chrome
- COVID – 19 Used to Persecute the church
 - CC San Jose
 - Still deal with the lawsuit
 - CC Fort Bragg
 - Was not allowed to live stream in their own church if more than one person was in there
 - Alberta: Grace Life Church (Grace Life), a large church near Edmonton
 - **Show PIC**
 - Governor Newsom's yearlong COVID-19 restrictions on churches were so strict that Californians were even banned from participating in Bible studies in private homes and singing. With the new permanent statewide injunction, this will never be allowed to happen in California again.

- <https://www.frc.org/updatearticle/20210519/california-churches#gsc.tab=0>
- BUT you can go to Walmart, Costco, Etc...

- Pro Life Groups

- **Show PIC**

- A pro-life activist is asking the U.S. Supreme Court to intervene take up his case after being arrested for peacefully praying outside an abortion clinic. - Southfield, Michigan.
- <https://dailycitizen.focusonthefamily.com/pro-life-activist-arrested-for-peaceful-prayer-appeals-to-supreme-court/>

- Abortion protester's arrest unrelated to prayer, hymns

- **Show Pic**

- For Blocking
 - extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://docs.house.gov/meetings/JU/JU10/20241218/117765/HHRG-118-JU10-20241218-SD005.pdf
- But think About that for a second
 - How BLM people were arrested
 - How Many Liberal Groups destroyed property and blocked road that were never arrested

- Street Preaching

- UK Church Appeals Street Evangelism Ban

- **Show Pic**

- <https://billygraham.org/decision-magazine/articles/uk-church-appeals-street-evangelism-ban>
 - The video shows an officer threatening to cite a street preacher outside Fort Worth Pride Fest in June.

- **Show Pic**

- https://www.wfaa.com/article/news/local/tarrant-county/fort-worth-police-department-pride-fest-viral-video-david-grisham-officer-sarah-stogner-texas/287-c8928e80-44d7-4af0-ae77-0890cb28acf0?fbclid=IwY2xjawTF8WdleHRuA2FibQlxMABicmlkETFsbzdmMURjbWZvYW82dWtHc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHv-pCBxHjrUW2XcpyDVXXszvdOhabxu6RtJROH7yXOdmDvdm4Woxu01ey2d1_aem_EXSARIZnNg6HeDYnE_UY3Q

- Don't Agree with the Radical Left

- You'll be blacklisted – out of a job
 - Illustration –
 - Judy working at PCOE

- **We must be ready / Must be awake and prepared**

- I am not calling for Political Activism but for BIBLICAL Activism

- Again Simple
 - Pray
 - Keep Loving Jesus
 - Share the Gospel
 - Biblical World View
 - Stand For Righteousness
 - SALT and LIGHT
 - Christians are the KEY
 - Vote

The Characteristics That Are Reveled About Jesus v. 8c

• 1. He Is Eternal v. 8c

Revelation 2:8c (NKJV)

8 *“And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, ‘These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:*

- **1. Once again we see the words the "First and the Last"**
 - The First and the Last - is used elsewhere
 - (Isaiah 41:4; Isaiah 44:6; Isaiah 48:12)
 - They identify Him as
 - The Eternal God
 - The Creator of all
 - God Almighty
 - Nothing happens outside the realm of His Character and Control

• 2. He Is The Resurrected Lord v. 8d

Revelation 2:8c (NKJV)

8 *“And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, ‘These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:*

○ **1. Who was Dead - Came to Life**

- They / We Serve the Risen Lord
 - Who is Victorious Over Death
 - Death could not hold Jesus
 - It cannot hold His people
- His resurrection reminds us and guarantees us that we will have the ultimate victory...
 - NO matter what persecutions may come our way or what circumstances we may face in this life

○ **2. Application**

- What a fitting description
 - First, Last , Dead Alive
 - This is exactly what this church needed to hear
- God Is in Control
 - He has defeated DEATH
- We CAN Trust HIM
 - Whatever HE ALLOWS
 - It's all a part of His divine plan for us
 - WE MUST ALWAYS REMEMBER HE IS IN CHARGE

The Commendation That Jesus Gives v. 9

- **1. Their Works v. 9a**

- **1st Nothing is Hidden from God**

Revelation 2:9 (NKJV)

9 ***"I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.***

- He knows everything we say and do...
- The GOOD or BAD
- The Good
 - He will reward
- The Bad
 - He knows everything thing...nothing hidden...and YET He LOVES US

- **2. Their Tribulation v. 9b**

- **1st This Word Tribulation Means**

Revelation 2:9 (NKJV)

9 ***"I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.***

- **We are PRE-TRIB**
 - Not Pre-TROUBLE
 - There was tribulations they were going through
 - We should be prepared for the same

- **3. Their Poverty v. 9c**

- **1. The word poverty**

Revelation 2:9 (NKJV)

9 *"I know your works, tribulation, **and poverty (but you are rich)**; and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.*

- Poverty

- Greek: Ptocheia
- Means: Beggary
- It's being so poor that you are no longer able to work, but only able to beg.
- This is extreme poverty.
- Refers to a beggar who is destitute

- Yet Jesus considered them wealthy.

- **2. Why they were Poor**

- It May have been stolen or confiscated **because of their faith**
 - Taken Away from them because they would not worship the Emperor
- It may have been – Blacklisted
 - No one would Do business with them because they did not have the certificate

- So no one would deal with them

- **3. How God sees it**

- POOR / BUT RICH
 - CRUSHED BUT VICTORIOUS
- Our Lord Calculates differently than we do
 - Contrast this with Rev. 3:17

Revelation 3:17 (NKJV)

17 Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—

- Material wealth is no barometer of spiritual riches
 - Our truth wealth is measured in spiritual terms
- **4. How they reacted and how should we**
 - When we look at their pastor (Polycarp) we see a man Determined / BUT also MEEK man
 - We should act the same way
 - Be peaceful, respectful, gentle, loving, meek, etc...
 - WE HAVE JESUS / TRUTH ON OUR SIDE
 - Yes we are to obey leaders (Includes Employers) so long as they don't contradict God (Romans 13:1-7 - 1 Peter 2:13-17)
 - BUT if we are asked to disobey God then we do not FOLLOW!!!

Acts 5:29 (NKJV)

29 But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men."

• 4. The Blasphemy They Endured v. 9d

- **1st Their false Claim**

Revelation 2:9 (NKJV)

9 *"I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.*

- **The source of this blasphemy is described as being**
 - "A Synagogue of Satan"
 - From those "who say they are Jews and are not"
 - They claimed to be Jewish
 - But their hearts were far from God and the Messiah
 - They demonstrated their unbelief
 - By the slander they gave to the believers in Smyrna
 - Because of their attitudes and actions of blasphemy they were doing the work of Satan himself...he was behind these attacks
- **Christians were accused of all sorts of wild things**
 - For Example
 - The Christians celebrated communion and spoke of partaking of the body and blood of Jesus
 - The Jews told Rome that Christians were cannibals!

The Command That Jesus Gives to Encourage Them v. 10

• **1. Regarding Fear**

- **1. Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer v. 10a**

Revelation 2:10 (NKJV)

10 *Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.*

- Be Fearless and Faithful
 - Do not FEAR - Literally, this is better translated "Stop Being Afraid."
- Yes Times will COME
 - But they designed to test our faith
 - They can't hurt us eternally
 - He reminds us that times will come that will test our courage
- Jesus will not ask to do something unless He has given us the POWER to do it
- **2. Consider 4 thing about Revelation 2:10**
 - **1. The Prediction Of Suffering v. 10b**

Revelation 2:10 (NKJV)

10 *Do not fear any of those things which **you are about to suffer**. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.*

- Jesus Christ said they were going to suffer

2 Timothy 3:12 (NKJV)

12 *Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.*

- In Fact if we have not suffered for the Christ – We might want to ask if we are living for HIM right?

- Maybe we are not suffering because we are not SHINING
- Illustration
 - John Wesley
 - who one day was riding on his horse through some open fields. As he was riding, he was talking to the Lord, and he said, "Lord have I backslidden?"
 - Its been two weeks since I've been persecuted
 - He got down off of his horse to pray and to seek God for whether or not something was wrong in his heart between him and the Lord, since there was this absence of persecution in his life.
 - As he was praying, there was a farmer behind a hedge who recognized him as Wesley the Evangelist and he picked up a stone and threw it at him. Wesley said, "Thank you Lord."
 - Pastor Martin Niemöller and a prison chaplain during
 - Niemöller's imprisonment in Nazi Germany.
 - The chaplain visited Niemöller's cell and asked, "What brings you here? Why are you in prison?" Niemöller famously replied, "And, brother, why are you not in prison?"The conversation highlighted the contrast between the two men:Pastor Niemöller: Imprisoned for nearly eight years in Sachsenhausen and Dachau for leading clergy opposition to Adolf

Hitler and the Nazis' interference in the church. The Chaplain: A cleric who had compromised his faith and remained silent to avoid Nazi persecution. Niemöller is best known for his postwar confessional poem about complicity and silence, "First they came for the socialists..." You can learn more about his life and legacy at the

- Christians – MLB players – Pride month
 - 3 Giants – Genesis 9
 - 1 Dodger refused to wear the hat
- **2. The Person Behind The Persecution Of Believers v. 10c**

Revelation 2:10 (NKJV)

10 Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

- The Bible teaches that
 - He can disrupt and cause dissension
 - He can inflict pain, disease, and bodily harm
 - He can influence and tempt us to do wrong
 - He is the father of lies...and deceives the whole world
 - He is behind many of our struggles and conflicts
- Although he is not omnipresent, he appears to be so because he has a vast army of demons-evil spirits-who do his bidding
 - This is WHY we put on the whole Armor of God

▪ 3. The Purpose Of This Suffering v. 10d

Revelation 2:10 (NKJV)

10 Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

- The purpose behind this satanic opposition was to test them
- Purify Them

Job 23:10 (NKJV)

10 But He knows the way that I take; When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold.

- And like Job...we may never really know why

1 Peter 1:6–7 (NKJV)

*6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,
7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,*

▪ 4th The Period of Suffering v. 10e

Revelation 2:10 (NKJV)

10 Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

- The text says, "and you will have tribulation 10 days"
- A great deal of discussion has centered on this statement
- 1. Refers to Roman persecutions

- Begin with the persecution by Nero – all the way through
- 2. "Ten Days" refer to 10 years of persecution by the emperor Diocletian (A.D. 303-313)
- 3. That the persecution would not last long
 - It would be brief, though real and difficult to endure
 - Genesis 24:55 uses the term "ten days" to refer to a brief time, as does Daniel 1:12
- **3. Be faithful until death – Crown Of Life v. 10f**

Revelation 2:10 (NKJV)

10 *Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. **Be faithful until death**, and I will give you the crown of life.*

- **To be faithful until death is to be faithful to one's commitment to Christ**
 - No matter what persecution, torture, suffering, or means of death one must face
 - We are to be witnesses for the Lord even in death
- **STAND Strong in Jesus**
 - The great need among Christians in our generation is a deepened sense of commitment and loyalty to Jesus Christ our Lord
 - Weak Christianity leads to compromise and moral defeat
 - Jesus challenges us all to "be faithful until death"

- We have nothing to lose and everything to gain

The Comfort He Promises vv. 10g-11

- **1. I will give you the crown of life**

- **1. What is the "crown of life"?**

Revelation 2:10 (NKJV)

10 *Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.*

- The "CROWNS" mentioned in the Bible
 - Greek word "Diadem"
 - King - Messiah - Jesus (Rev. 19:12)
 - Greek word "Stephanos"
 - Believers Victory Crown
- The "CROWNS" mentioned for believers are (Hocking)
 - Invaluable as to worth - "Crowns of Gold"
 - Incorruptible as to lasting value when compared to earthly rewards (I Cor. 9:24-27)
 - Incomparable as to earthly achievements - (1 Pet. 5:4 - "crown of glory that fade not away")
 - Inseparable as to the people they represent - (Phil. 4:1; I Thess. 2:19-20)
 - Inspirational as to motivation - (2 Tim. 4:8)

- Indestructible as to eternal life - (James 1:12; Rev. 2:10 - "crown of life")

• **2. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death**

○ **1. Good to Hear v. 11a**

Revelation 2:11 (NKJV)

11 **"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death."**

- Take it to HEART

○ **2. What about the "second death"?**

Revelation 2:11 (NKJV)

11 **"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death."**

- The "second death" is mentioned in Revelation 20:14-15 and refers to a final separation of the unbeliever from God forever in a place called "the lake of fire"
- It is eternal death...the final consequence of unbelief

○ Overcomers...

- Those who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior will not be hurt by the second death but rather be rewarded with the crown of life

Closing

• **Pastor POLYCARP – An Example of Suffering**

- POLYCARP a disciple of the Apostle John.
- His Story...
- On February 22, 166AD Polycarp was burned at the stake.

- He was over 90 years old.
- We have an account of his death in Foxes Book of Martyrs.
- Excerpts
- Polycarp was the Pastor of Smyrna.....
- Hearing his captors had arrived one evening
- Polycarp left his bed to welcome them, ordered a meal prepared for them
- Then asked for one hour alone to PRAY
- The soldiers were so impressed by Polycarp's advanced age and composure that they began to wonder why they had been sent to take him.
- As soon as he had finished his prayers
- They put him on a donkey and brought him to the city.
- As he entered the stadium with his guards
 - A voice from heaven was heard to say, "Be strong Polycarp and play the man."
- Brought before the Tribunal and the crowd
 - Polycarp refused to deny Christ.
- The Proconsul begged him to consider himself and have pity on his great age,
 - Reproach Christ and I will release you.
 - *Polycarp replied, "86 years I have served Him and He never once wronged me, how can I blaspheme my King who saved me?"*

- He was Threatened with wild beasts,
 - But Polycarp stood his ground.
 - "What are you waiting for?"
 - Do whatever you please."
- The Governor - then threatened with fire –
 - To which Polycarp answered - you threaten me with fire which burns for an hour and after is extinguished –
 - But you will have to face the fires of judgement that will burn for eternity unless you repent.
- At that The crowd demanded Polycarp's death,
 - Gathering wood for fire and preparing to tie him to the stake.
 - "Leave me." He said, "He who will give me strength to sustain the fire will help me not to flinch from the pile."
 - So they bound him but didn't nail him to the stake.
- Polycarp prayed –
 - I thank you lord that you have graciously thought me worthy of this day & of this hour that I may be part of the number of martyrs to die for Christ
 - As soon as Polycarp finished his prayer the fire was lit
- The Miracle
 - Then the fire was lit, and the flame blazed furiously.
 - We who were privileged to witness it saw a great miracle,

- The fire shaped itself into the form of an arch, like the sail of a ship when filled with the wind, and formed a circle around the body of the Polycarp.
- Inside it, he looked not like flesh that is burnt, but like bread that is baked, or gold and silver glowing in a furnace. And we smelt a sweet scent, like frankincense or some such precious spices.
- Eventually, when those wicked men saw that his body could not be consumed by the fire, they commanded an executioner to pierce him with a dagger.
- When he did this (a dove flew out and)
- Such a great quantity of blood flowed that the fire was extinguished.
- The crowd were amazed
- Many gave their lives to Christ that day