



# LOVE SO AMAZING

The Love of Christ Exhibited

Specifically to Each of the Churches in Revelation Rev. 2:8-10

2022 THEME

## SMYRNA

Rev. 2:8 And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

9 **I know thy works**, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

The Book of Revelation is an unveiling or revealing of the Lord Jesus Christ. In chapters two and three, this book reveals truth about the Lord Jesus that should be a focus of every church – He know a church’s “works.” Regarding the seven churches in these two chapters, note the following:

Rev. 2:2 **I know thy works**, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: ...

9 **I know thy works**, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. ...

13 **I know thy works**, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth. ...

19 **I know thy works**, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.

Rev. 3:1 And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; **I know thy works**, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. ...

8 **I know thy works**: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. ...

15 **I know thy works**, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

This morning, we will observe how the Lord Jesus Christ describes the church in Smyrna.



# SMYRNA

Two weeks ago we observed the Lord Jesus Christ's assessment of the church at Ephesus. This morning, we will see what His assessment was of the church at Smyrna.

## I. THE DECLARATION OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST "I know thy works..."

A. The Principle of Identity – the Believers' Works,  
2:8 "I know thy works..."

❖ The Lord Jesus knows everything about each of us.

❖ The Lord Jesus Christ makes it clear that He is astutely aware of a church's character:

**Original Word:** οἶδα

**Transliteration:** eidó

**Definition:** be aware, behold, consider, perceive;

**Usage:** **I know**, remember, appreciate.

***eídō* ("seeing that becomes knowing") then is a gateway to grasp spiritual truth (reality) from a physical plane.** (*eídō*) then is physical seeing (sight) which should be the constant bridge to mental and spiritual seeing (*comprehension*).

[Strong's Greek: 1492. εἶδω \(eidó\) -- be aware, behold, consider, perceive \(biblehub.com\)](https://biblehub.com/greek/1492/)

- ❖ The Lord Jesus addressed the church as a singular entity – “thy.”
- ❖ The Lord connects the individual church with its “works.”

**Original Word:** ἔργον

**Transliteration:** ergon

**Definition: Usage:** work, task, employment; a deed, action; that which is wrought or made, a work.

*érgon* – **a work or worker who accomplishes something.** *érgon* ("work") is a deed (action) that **carries out (completes) an inner desire (intension, purpose).**

<https://biblehub.com/greek/2041.htm>



❖ The “works’ are NOT essential for salvation but show be indicative that a person is saved.

B. The Presentation of Understatement – “...and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich)..”

❖ The oxymoronic statement expresses a view of the church from the Lord’s perspective.

1 Sam. 16:7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: **for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.**

❖ The Lord Jesus uses a different accounting system than most humans, (even Christians.)

Luke 21:1 And he looked up, and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury.

2 And he saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites.

3 And he said, Of a truth I say unto you, that **this poor widow hath cast in more than they all:**

❖ The Lord Jesus sees each of us as individuals, and collectively as a church.

## II. THE DIAGNOSIS OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, 2:9

A. The Notable Faults – The Descriptive Terms –  
“...and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not...”

- ❖ The Lord Jesus knows the difference between the wicked phonies and the real believers within a church.
- ❖ The Lord Jesus knows the difference between reputation and true character.

**Original Word:** βλασφημία

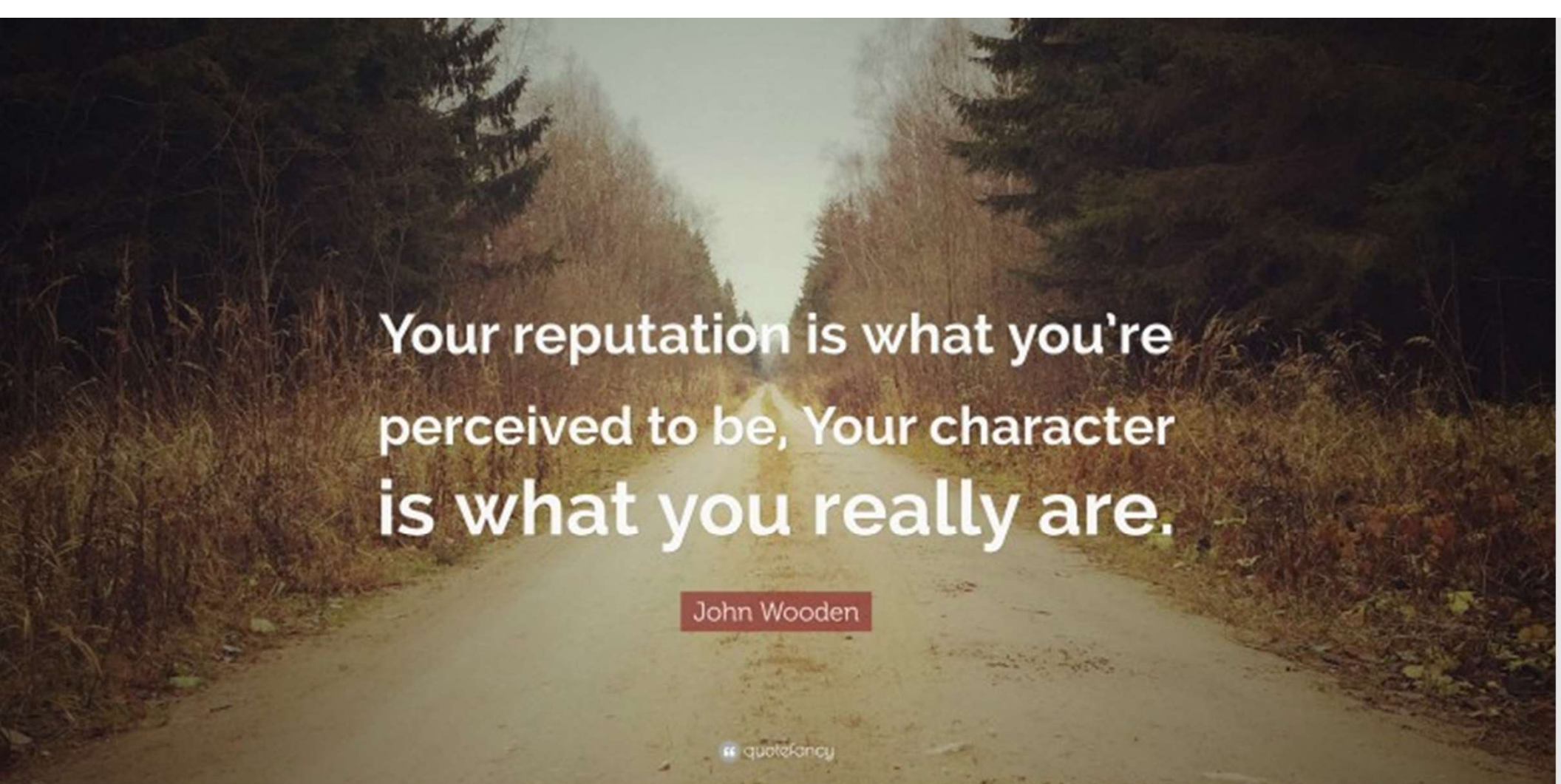
**Transliteration:** blasphémia

**Definition:** slander; **Usage:** abusive or scurrilous language, blasphemy.

*blasphēmía* (from *blax*, "sluggish/slow," and *phēmē*, "reputation, fame") – *blasphemy* – **literally, slow (sluggish) to call something good (that really is good) – and slow to identify what is truly bad (that really is evil)**. Loss of distinctives, like Laodicea.

Blasphemy (*blasphēmía*) "switches" right for wrong (wrong for right), i.e. calls what God *disapproves*, "right" which "exchanges the truth of God for a lie" (Rom. 1:25).

<https://biblehub.com/greek/988.htm>



Your reputation is what you're  
perceived to be, Your character  
is what you really are.

John Wooden

quote fancy

❖ Not only does the Lord Jesus know the character of the wicked, He knows the source.

B. The Noticeable Factor – the Demonic Terms –  
“...but are the synagogue of Satan.”

❖ The Lord reveals that the source of spiritual warfare comes from the depths of hell.

### III. THE DEMAND THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, 2:10

A. The Command for Fearlessness – “Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer...”

Josh. 1:9 Have not I commanded thee? **Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God *is* with thee whithersoever thou goest.**

Deuteronomy 31:6 Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: **for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.**

Hebrews 13:5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

❖ Fear is a common challenge to all of mankind.

Psa. 56:3 What time I am afraid, **I will trust in thee.**

❖ Proper fear is wise:

Proverbs 9:10 **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom:** and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

B. The Challenge for Faithfulness – “...behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days...”



1 Pet. 4:12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

13 **But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.**

14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, *happy are ye*; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

❖ When the adversary of a believer attacks, consider yourself worthy of his attention and keep your eyes upon the Lord Jesus Christ.

Job 23:10 But he knoweth the way that I take: **when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.**

C. The Charge for Fruitfulness – “...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”

1 Cor. 4:2 Moreover it **is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.**

Jn. 15:8 Herein is my Father glorified, **that ye bear much fruit;** so shall ye be my disciples.

❖ The reward for a lifelong commitment to Christ is the crown of life:

Jas. 1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive **the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.**

❖ The Crown of Life is the reward to those who love the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 John 2:5 But **whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected:** hereby know we that we are in him.

❖ Obedience cannot be separated from the motivation of love for Christ.

1 John 4:19 **We love him**, because he first loved us.

1 Cor. 16:22 **If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ,**  
let him be **Anathema Maranatha**.

## Conclusion

1 Jn. 2:15 **Love not the world**, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

John 15:10 **If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love;** even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

1 John 5:3 For **this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.**

John 14:15 **If ye love me, keep my commandments.**