

Doctrinal Studies: SMYRNA – THE CITY

- I. Smyrna – means *myrrh*, taken from the Hebrew word *MOR*.
- II. This city was located 35 miles North of Ephesus on the gulf of Smyrna, on the Aegean Sea.
- III. Smyrna was a famous colony made up of Greeks (called Ionians), who came from Athens.
- IV. It was such a great city that the Lydian's on their rise to power became jealous of it, and destroyed it. It remained in ruins for 400 years.
- V. Alexander the Great planned to rebuild it but died before the task was accomplished. One of his great generals, Lysimachus, rebuilt the city after Alexander's death.
- VI. It became one of the most prosperous cities of the Western seaboard of Turkey known as Anatolia. Black sea to the North, Mediterranean to the South, and the Aegean Sea to the West. The population when John wrote was approximately 200,000.
- VII. There was a strong group of Believers in Smyrna; it was a great Church, with great people – it was not criticized by our Lord.
- VIII. In AD 23, a Temple was built in honor of the Emperor Tiberius and his mother Julian – a wide golden boulevard was built; people traveled for many miles to walk on that gold.
- IX. Smyrna also was famous as a medical center. It was the most advanced and physicians wanted to go there to practice.
- X. Of all the Churches of the Ancient world the Church of Smyrna suffered the most, lasted the longest, and the reason was that there was a good marriage between the Pastor and the congregation. This Church had a group consistent in the intake of Truth. By AD 300, years after John, [Polycarp](#) and others, Ephesus and Smyrna became almost totally Christian cities. Polycarp (69 – 155 AD), was a friend and student of John.