

UPCOMING EVENTS:

PARENTING CLASS

Wednesdays Starting Feb. 25th

Grace Based Parenting is not another manual full of impossible standards; rather it is a new map for learning to see ourselves and our children through God's limitless tenderness - to raise our kids the way God raises us. Email ekids@ourelement.org for more.

eKIDSI MYSTERY BASH

Feb. 13th 7p-10p

Grades 1-6 are invited to bring a friend and come solve the "Case of the Disappearing Diamond"
Cost- \$3 per investigator

GOBAGS

Drop off items for gobags to the tent outside after every service through the month of February.

BAPTISMS

Baptisms: April 19th at 1pm

Sign up today to get baptized.
Short Informational Meeting on March 1st at 11am & 12: 30pm.
eKids! Child & Parent Class: 3/15

ELEMENT MOMS

Weekly meet-ups at the park for kids to play and moms to connect.
Contact: emoms@ourelement.org

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Thank you for joining us today. This is a short note to let you know that we know what you are thinking: It is hot and cramped in this room. We want to acknowledge with you that yes, the front room is full, the kids rooms are full, and it can get warm. We are working on alleviating this right now by building our own building on the land just north of us (we must be out of this one by December 2016).

There is a lot that goes into the process of Element having a permanent home, but we hope that today you are first drawn to Jesus before you are overwhelmed by anything else. If it gets too hot we may hand out popsicles to help you cool off and give you a sugar rush. If you would like a service that has open seats (and is cooler), you are invited to our 8:15am service. Please understand that all of these "challenges" are because of our love for Jesus, people, and growth that has come quickly. These are good things. We hope you will stay as we work to make more room for you to be part of the good thing Jesus is doing here. If you would like more information about our building process or how you can participate you can visit www.elementroots.org.

- The Element Team

CHURCHES
OF

REVELATION

TODAY'S VERSES:

Revelation 2:8-11

Proverbs 17:3

MY NOTES:



02. SMYRNA

02. SMYRNA WAX & MIRRORS

CHURCHES OF REVELATION

*And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write:
“The words of the first and the last,
who dies and came to life.”*

Revelation 2:8

For the next 9 weeks we are taking a journey through what is commonly called “Lent.” Lent, for Element, is a time of sober and thoughtful reflection of what is going on in our lives as God’s Spirit shines His light into the deepest parts of our hearts. This is taking place currently as we walk through the 7 churches listed in Revelation chapters 2 & 3 and examine not simply the ancient churches and our personal lives, but our church, in light of what Jesus says to these churches.

What are the hardest areas for you to allow God’s Spirit to examine?

There is much speculation about the church in Smyrna regarding its state, of being rich or poor. The wording from Revelation can lead us in either direction depending on how we interpret the passage’s words. Smyrna is modern days Izmir, it is located in the country of Turkey. There are only 2 churches in the 7 letters that receive only positive words and no rebuke from Jesus, Smyrna and Philadelphia.

**What positives do you think Jesus would say about you and your life?
What would be his rebukes toward you?**

Smyrna was a harbor city (a beach town) that was well known for its temple to the “Mother Goddess” and its provincial imperial cult temples. Smyrna had paved streets, a library, and a gymnasium which led many to want to visit this city of wealth and prestige.

What cities would you like to visit? Why?

Smyrna could have been a lot like the American Church today, in a position of relative comfort, but could see persecution looming on the not so distant horizon. The church in Smyrna was faced with the same question we are faced with today, will we mirror the culture or will we mirror the Gospel?

**How have you seen people simply mirror our culture?
How have you seen people mirror the Gospel?**

Read Revelation 2:8-11

DA Carson once said that one generation believes and fights for something, the next generation assumes it to be true, the next questions those assumptions, and the next denies it all together. In America the actual population that could be considered to be followers of Jesus might be as low as 7-8.9%, that means Christianity is in the minority and any social benefits it once enjoyed are quickly dissipating.

Why could this be a good thing?

Are you willing to suffer, yet remain faithful to the teachings of scripture, no matter what ends up happening?

When we look at Jesus walking among the lampstands we think of electric powered lamps, but the original readers would have thought of candles on top of stands. Original readers would have understood that there would be nothing special about the wax that would affect the light because the wax doesn’t produce the light, the lit wick does. We all have different wax, but the same wick because everyone one of us, though born into different circumstances, are still made in the image of God. While we live we have a wick and Jesus is the one who lights it. He brings us to life by the gospel of His grace given to us. While we live as believers we can produce light and power because He first gave it to us; we can also be instrumental in the lighting of other candles as well; it doesn’t matter how much wax we have, it matters if our wick is lit.

**Are you more concerned with wax (stuff/comfort) or with Christ?
Are you more concerned with mirroring the culture we live in or mirroring Jesus?**

How could we better mirror Jesus in our culture?

When the world falls apart around us we tend to focus on the amount of wax we have, but we must never forget that we have been lit by the Gospel of God’s grace.