

I. THE CONDITION OF THE CHURCH

A. Some facts about the church in Philadelphia

1. Philadelphia was located about 30 miles southeast of Sardis
 - a. Small city on the main road of travel
 - b. On the border of Mysia and Lydia in Asia Minor
2. Had a name that meant “Brotherly Love”
 - a. Wrong to think that it received that name AFTER Christianity
 - b. It is an aspect in name WE MUST EMULATE – He commands it!
3. We are to have love for Christ and love for one another
 - a. JOHN 13:34&35 – “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. (35) By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”
 - b. 1 THESS. 4:9 – “But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.”
 - c. HEB. 13:1 – “Let brotherly love continue.”

B. Same Jesus for Philadelphia!

1. We must remember that WE serve the same Jesus Christ!
2. He is ALL HOLY and ALL TRUE
 - a. He said, “I am the Way, the TRUTH, and the Life”
 - b. REV.19:11 – “And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.”
 - c. Let us not neglect to observe His Truth
3. He has ALL AUTHORITY – The Key of David
 - a. He shall rule from David’s Throne during the Millennium
 - b. LUKE 1:32 – “He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: (33) And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.”
 - c. Let us not neglect to observe His Authority
4. HE has ALL POWER to open and close doors of Opportunity
 - a. He opened the door to Noah’s Ark
 - b. And He CLOSED the door the Noah’s Ark
 - c. HE IS THE DOOR - JOHN 10:9 – “I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.”
 - d. No one else can do that!
 - e. Let us not neglect to observe His Power

- C. Today we must learn from the Church in Philadelphia
 - 1. We must learn Courage to continue
 - 2. We must understand the Care of Jesus over us
 - 3. We must rest upon His Certainty for us
 - 4. And all must hear the Call to a crown and to overcome!

II. THE COURAGE OF THE CHURCH

- A. Jesus commends the church for their FAITHFULNESS to Him
 - 1. Remember – this is a small church in a crossroads
 - a. They might “let themselves off the hook”
 - b. “We don’t have much that we can do...”
 - c. But they didn’t! How do we know?
 - 2. Jesus brings them NO COMPLAINT! (He knows their works)
 - 3. But instead COMMENDS them in FOUR ways:
 - a. They have WORKED (not always easy to serve God)
 - b. They had LITTLE STRENGTH but did not faint
 - c. They had KEPT THE WORD (patiently bearing)
 - d. They had TESTIFIED IN HIS NAME (not denied it)
- B. Jesus BLESSES faithfulness any time and every time!
 - 1. He said He was keeping the door of opportunity OPEN
 - a. And NO ONE was going to shut THAT door!
 - b. Not a new job, not an investment, but for the Gospel
 - c. For a church the Gospel is the only job and the only investment
 - 2. It’s amazing how God works
 - a. Obedience is the key to blessing
 - b. AND blessing is the key to MORE obedience
 - 3. Keep the Standard raised high!
- C. They had COURAGE in the face of false teachers and false churches
 - 1. Do you think Satan has changed his tactics today?
 - 2. 2 COR. 11:13 – “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. (14) And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. (15) Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.”
 - 3. But they shall be judged
 - a. Fall at the feet of that church (vs. 9)
 - b. 1 COR. 6:2 – “Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?”
 - c. Don’t worry – God’s going to take care of it!

III. THE CARE OF THE CHURCH

- A. He will give PRESERVING GRACE during trying times (vs. 10)
 - 1. This is not talking about the Tribulation period!
 - 2. 1 THESS. 5:9 – “For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,”
 - 3. LUKE 21:34 – “And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. (35) For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. (36) Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.”
 - 4. We hold to the PRE-TRIBULATION and PRE-WRATH RAPTURE position
- B. He is watching and caring (vs. 9)
 - 1. He will PROVE it to everyone how He loves His Churches!
 - 2. The church in Philadelphia was His espoused bride (so are we!)
 - 3. What would a man do to someone who threatens his woman?
- C. For us, we must HOLD FAST (vs. 11)
 - 1. He is a bridegroom that has gone away to build a mansion
 - 2. This follows the Jewish wedding pattern (Ex. Joseph and Mary)
 - 3. Should not the Bride BELIEVE what the Bridegroom told her?
 - 4. Shouldn't she hold fast to the WORD?

IV. THE CERTAINTY OF THE CHURCH

- A. And this is the WORD that the Bridegroom gave to His Bride
 - 1. A CROWN for faithful service (vs. 11)
 - 2. A PILLAR of the Temple of God (vs. 12)
 - 3. A PLACE with Him in New Jerusalem (no more going out)
 - 4. A NAME in three ways:
 - a. Written upon him of God
 - b. Written upon him of God's City
 - c. Written upon him that is NEW
- B. That is the likened to the “earmarking” of a servant
- C. Always to be with Jesus and NEVER wander again!
 - 1. Hold fast!
 - 2. Be encouraged!
 - 3. Keep going!

V. THE CALL TO HEAR

- A. This is to our Church – the Naples Baptist Temple
- B. This is a challenge for us to be FAITHFUL to Him and His Word

1. Obedience is the key to blessings
 2. And CONTINUED obedience is the key to MORE blessings
- C. If you are not Saved, then these promises do not belong to you
1. You will not overcome. You do not have a crown.
 2. But you CAN!
 3. Be Saved today!