

**To the Saints of God at Topeka, Kansas
March 20, 2016**

The Church at Philadelphia - Part 3

Rev. 3:7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith He that is holy, He that is true, He that hath the key of David, He that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

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.

9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

13 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

■ **And To The Angel Of The Church In Philadelphia Write; These Things Saith He That Is Holy, He That Is True, He That Hath The Key Of David, He That Openeth, And No Man Shutteth; And Shutteth, And No Man Openeth** - Christ mentions David, because he was a type of Christ; and because from him Christ came according to the flesh, and whose throne he was to sit upon, in a spiritual sense. *By the key of David* is meant the key of the house of David; (see Isaiah 22:22) that is, the church of Christ, of which David's house and family were a type: and this key is either the key of knowledge, or it is expressive of power and authority. Christ has the key of knowledge, he knows all the persons of his people, all their

affairs, and what they do in His house, and how they behave there: He has the key of knowledge in the Scriptures.



The Lord Jesus Christ has free and unrestrained power and control to admit or exclude anyone he wants into the Kingdom of Heaven! He is the possessor of the key. He can prescribe the terms; He can invite whom He chooses; He can exclude those whom He judges should not be admitted. Christ opens the door of the church, which

is Himself, and lets in His sheep; and He opens the door of heaven by his blood and righteousness, and gives His people liberty and boldness to enter into the holiest of all, and brings sons to glory in spite of all the opposition of men and devils. He opens a door of uncommon opportunity of preaching the Gospel; He opens a door of utterance to His ministers; He opens a door of entrance to the heart; and, He opens a door of admission into the visible church. If God loved everyone there would no need for a door or a key. A door funnels people to a spot so the door can be opened or closed or even locked.

When Christ pleases, He shuts up the Scriptures, and the eyes of men from seeing Him; He shuts up the door of the Gospel (like he shut up the doors of the arc), and forbids the preaching of it in this and that place; and the door of heaven will be shut by Him at the last day, when all called to the marriage of the



Lamb have entered. When He pleases, He shuts the door of opportunity and the door of utterance, and leaves obstinate sinners shut up in the hardness of their hearts; He shuts the door up the church to unbelievers and profane persons; and He shuts the door of heaven against the foolish virgins who have slept away their day of grace, and against the workers of iniquity, how

vain and confident so ever they may be. This shows the sovereignty, power, and authority of Christ, which He will exercise in this church state. No force of man or devil can pry open, knock down or evade a door that Christ closes. *And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church* (Eph. 1:22).

Re 22:14 *Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates (outside door) into the city.*

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.



As with the Church at Ephesus the Lord Jesus Christ knows the works of His churches. Nothing escapes his watchful and attentive eye. He knows what we do. Then, Christ says, “Behold! I have set before thee an open door and no man can shut it.” Four times when talking to the Church at Philadelphia, the Lord Jesus Christ says “Behold!” This is an exclamation and a note of attention that something amazing, astonishing and remarkable is about to follow.

The Lord Jesus Christ has opened wide the door of this world for His church to go forth and preach boldly before their generation. He is giving His Church wide access, no restraint and unlimited privileges to preach His Word and loudly proclaim His name throughout the whole world. No man can prevent or hinder this door from being thrown wide open for this church. No man or device of Satan has the power of preventing this, for He who has control over all things concedes these privileges to His Churches. *“For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries”* (1 Cor. 16:9). *“...[T]he gates of hell shall not prevail against” the church* (Mat. 16:18). The Lord Jesus Christ has thrown open the doors for us and He has our back! Once we walk through the door, no power on earth or heaven is going to be able to shut it! So, there is no reason for the church not to be bold, no reason for the true Church to be lukewarm! And instead we must have boldness and be proud of Christ’s word.

The Church at Philadelphia had “a little strength.” That word “strength” means:

AV-power 77, mighty work 11, strength 7, miracle 7, might 4, virtue 3, mighty 2,

1) strength power, ability

1a) inherent power, power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature, or which a person or thing exerts and puts forth

1b) power for performing miracles

1c) moral power and excellence of soul

1d) the power and influence which belong to riches and wealth

1e) power and resources arising from numbers

1f) power consisting in or resting upon armies, forces, hosts

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might (Eph. 6:10). Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus (2Tim. 2:1). Whatever little strength they had it flowed directly from Christ.

For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but ye are strong; ye are honourable, but we are despised. Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace (1 Cor. 4:9 -11).

Gill says this refers to outward power and authority. Also, in their own eyes they had a little strength and they were small in numbers and external resources. They had this little strength to do good in the midst of great obstacles to their good works, and great temptations to do evil like those all around them. See Mat. 24:24 *"For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."* The Blessed Saviour saw signs of spiritual life in this Church – this is remarkable given the state of the world and the state of the other Churches which he had something against.

The church at Philadelphia, as individuals and as a fighting unit or platoon had not denied Christ's name. The Church had not denied the commands and ordinances of Christ in practice. They preached, professed, and defended these doctrines of the Gospel, in a public and open way. This little Church had living stones that would not succumb to the pressures of Satan and the cares of this life. Through Christ they would not allow the gates of hell to prevail against God. They held forth in a public way and said right about Christ and his doctrines when all others denied Him.

When the members of that little church at Philadelphia were summoned to courts of judicature and before the cruel judges and put on trial for their religion and were called upon to renounce Christ, they stood firm and would not yield! The thought here is that most will yield. They will cave. They will baptize and marry fags, allow women preachers and put their stamp of approval on fornication, adultery and bow down and worship the military and all manner of sin. We have some experience in these matter. In the Snyder case, before trial, the military lawyers knew the trial judge was himself a military man willing to violate the laws of man and God and that they had a free pass. In the court ordered settlement talks they used the opportunity to try and make us deny the name of Christ. They said we will settle with you defendants but only if you bind the whole church even those not a party to the case to promise in writing to never ever again, picket a soldier funeral. We said that is not negotiable – we are done here, we stand with our God who is able to deliver us out of the hand of this cruel judge – and He did.

Daniel 3:14 Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up? 15 Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands? 16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. 17 If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. 18 But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ does not apologize for God's judgments and God's words and they will not deny His name! The church at Philadelphia had not denied Christ's doctrine respecting His person, office, and grace, neither in words, nor in works, but in all ways confessed and owned it. That's the power and might and boldness they have. We refuse to take the mark of the beast in our forehead, in our hand or in anyway take that mark!

Behold, I Will Make Them Of The Synagogue Of Satan, Which Say They Are Jews, And Are Not, But Do Lie; Behold, I Will Make Them To Come And Worship Before Thy Feet, And To Know That I Have Loved Thee.

At the time of the Church at Philadelphia there were people who held themselves out as Jews and had a Jewish heritage and worshipped as Jews in their religious practices but who were in fact followers of Satan, believing and doing the active work of Satan on the earth. The Jews were pretenders (and mere “professors” of God) – pretending to be of God and to be righteous and holy but actually being of Satan. The Lord Jesus Christ says they were of the synagogue of Satan and that they were liars. That is, they were not true Jews inwardly. Paul addresses this issue in Romans 2:28-29 – *“For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.”* The Lord Jesus Christ is no mealy-mouth. There is no “God loves everyone” here or anywhere else. The Lord’s words are plain – these that say they are Jews are not, they are of Satan and they are liars. And, Christ says that these people will come before the members of that little Church and show them honor and respect and bow down to God before them. They will understand that God Almighty regards the people in that little Church as in His favor and that He loves them with an everlasting love and that those so-called Jews have spoken against His people.

These Jews are most likely the 144,000 Jews mentioned in Revelation 7. Gill says “the sense is, that the convinced and converted Jews shall come to the church, and in the most lowly and contrite manner acknowledge their former blindness, furious zeal, and violent hatred of the Christians, and shall profess their faith in Christ; shall join themselves to the church, and partake of the ordinances of the Gospel with them; and shall worship God and Jesus Christ, their Lord and King, in their presence, and at their feet.” Jamieson Fausset and Brown says “the promise to Philadelphia is larger than that to Smyrna. To Smyrna the promise was that “the synagogue of Satan” should not prevail against the faithful in her: to Philadelphia, the promise is that she should even win over some of “the synagogue of Satan” to fall on their faces and confess God is in her of a truth.” The Lord Jesus Christ has the power and ability to convert those that are of Satan and enemies of God to Him, but only if He chooses.

To say that these Jews were of the synagogue of Satan is to say that they were clearly the enemies of the cross of Christ, even though they held themselves out to be righteous and holy. *“Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)”* Phil 3:17-19. I remind you beloved brethren that those that have left this place, are of the synagogue or church of Satan and they are your enemies. Their end is destruction, their God is their belly, they glory in their shame and they mind earthly things. Leave them alone, and do not become entangled with them. If we have the love of Christ, that is all we need. Everything else is vanity, and vexation of spirit. The love of Christ is the treasure hid in the field that we sell everything for.

■ Because Thou Hast Kept The Word Of My Patience, I Also Will Keep Thee From The Hour Of Temptation, Which Shall Come Upon All The World, To Try Them That Dwell Upon The Earth.

The Church at Philadelphia had suffered many grievous trials and persecutions and had kept Christ’s word faithfully and patiently. The literal meaning of the word patience is “endurance.” They had “endured hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ” (2 Tim 2:3) and been of the “**good ground**” (parable of the seed and the sower) with “**an honest and good heart,**” having heard the word they kept it, and brought “**forth fruit with patience**” (Luke 8:15). Christ on the earth was the model of patience. Patience in our context includes, enduring afflictions, reproaches, persecutions, desertions, and temptations, and patiently waiting for Christ’s kingdom and glory. Christ promises now, that in return He will keep them when the appointed hour of great temptations and trials shall come upon the world. This is the time to watch and pray, as instructed by our dear Lord Jesus Christ. *“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.”* (Luke 21:36) This is the time the sheep are separated from the goats as it were. These trials will be severe and hot. Whatever these temptations and trials are, they are not local or regional in nature. Gill says “Christ will now have his fan in his hand, and purge

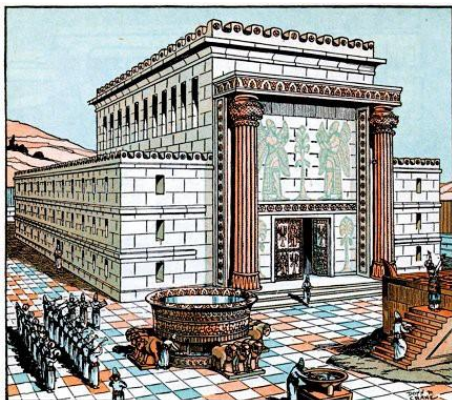
his floor of all his formal professors and hypocrites; and it will be known who are his true churches, and pure members; and these he will keep close to himself, and preserve safe amidst all the distress and confusion the world will be in." The Lord Jesus Christ is going to try the world – this is the proving ground! Christ speaking: "And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities" (Luke 19:17).

- **Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.** **Behold** (and don't forget!) the Lord is coming quickly in



power and glory to gather up his jewels (Mal. 3:17). The Church is warned to hold fast the little bit of righteousness that they have and endure! That word "man" literally means "no one, no body, nothing." Satan and his messengers are consumed in bloodthirsty lust against Christ and His church. Satan and his ilk are coming for your crown. Why else would Christ issue the warning? Satan and his army are desperately trying at all cost to take the crowns of God's elect. *"Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing"* 2Tim 4:8. The warning is that if we let our guard down, someone will steal our crown. We need to be on our constant guard, that, in a world of temptation, where the enemies of truth abound, we may not be robbed of the crown that we might have worn forever."

■ **Him That Overcometh Will I Make A Pillar In The Temple Of My God, And He Shall Go No More Out:**



Christ tells those little ones in the church that overcome and endure to the end, the glories they will receive. He tells them this to comfort them and to let them know their work is not in vain. Christ promises that He will make these blessed people in this little church pillars in the temple of God in Heaven. This is a reference to the two pillars in Solomon's Temple, Boaz (that is, "In it is strength") and Jachin ("It shall be established").

Pillars are what hold up a building. They are inseparable from the building, necessary and central to the structure. This is a prize like no other on earth or heaven and the prize lasts forever and it is eternal bliss to never have to go out from the temple of God where God's presence is. How glorious and wonderful! The door shall be once and for all shut. The elect will be shut safely within Heaven's door and the lost forever shut out! Christ tells the Church at Philadelphia that the welfare of their souls will no longer be in peril. They will never be in danger of falling into temptation. No crafty, deceitful enemy shall ever have power to disenfranchise us from God. He tells them that when they reach the heavenly world, their conflicts will be over and their doubts will be over. As soon as they cross the threshold they shall be greeted with the assurance, "he shall go no more out for ever."

■ I Will Write Upon Him The Name Of My God, And The Name Of The City Of My God, Which Is New Jerusalem, Which Cometh Down Out Of Heaven From My God: And I Will Write Upon Him My New Name.

Barnes says the name of God would be conspicuously recorded on him to show that he belonged to God. I think in terms of a permanent tattoo that cannot be altered or removed. The allusion is to a public edifice on the columns of which the names of distinguished and honoured persons were recorded; that is, where there was a public testimonial of the respect in which one whose name was thus recorded was held. The honour thus conferred on him "who should overcome" would be as great as if the name of that God whom he served, and whose favour and friendship he enjoyed, were inscribed on him in some conspicuous manner. The meaning is that he would be known and recognized as belonging to God; the God of the Redeemer himself— indicated by the phrase "the name of my God." What a wonderful thought, to belong to God, and for God not to abhor you and your sinful state. Can there be anything better in the universe than this? Christ will also write upon them the name of the city of God - indicating that they belong to that city. They will have all the rights and privileges of citizenship to that blessed city - the New Jerusalem - the city of His habitation. Wherever they go they will be instantly recognized as belonging to that holy city. Your "papers" will be in order and no devil in hell or Satan himself can question the authenticity of your right and inheritance because they will know on the face of it that you belong to God and that your name is written in the registry of Christ.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak. I love you all. Amen.