

# Revelation Study Guide

## Chapter 3 - Philadelphia



**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;**

Philadelphia was located about twenty-eight miles southeast of Sardis. The city was founded in 189 B.C. by Attalus Philadeiphus, for whom it was named. Some believe it was so named because of the love and loyalty existing between Philadeiphus and his brother, the king of Lydia. Philadelphia was also known as Decapolis, because it was one of the ten cities of the plain.

Philadelphia has been given a number of new names. It was sometimes called Little Athens because of the magnificence of its public buildings. Its modern Turkish name is Ala Shehr, which means "The City of God" or "The Exalted City."



## Ruins at Philadelphia



Philadelphia guarded and commanded an important pass through the mountains between the Hermus and Meander valleys. It was the “Keeper of the key” to door, or gateway, of the eastern highlands. The officials had the power to open and close this door as they willed. Through this portal passed the mail, trade, and commerce of the west to the wide regions of central and eastern Lydia.

The city of Philadelphia was subject to frequent and severe earthquakes. No city of Asia Minor suffered as more or as much. The historian, Strabo, who lived between 64 B.C. and A.D. 21, said Philadelphia was “full of earthquakes.” He may have been there in A.D. 17- the year of the great earthquake that destroyed the city. Unfortunately, that was only one of a series of quakes which kept the citizens in a state of fearful expectancy.

Strabo wrote: “Philadelphia has no trustworthy walls, but daily in one direction or another they keep tottering and falling apart. The inhabitants, however, pursue their original purpose, ever keeping in mind the writhing pangs of the ground, and building with a view to counteracting them.” Strabo was astonished that a city should ever have been founded in such a locality. He questioned the sanity of the people for re-entering the ruined city and planning to rebuild for the expected future shocks. He felt when people were driven from a city by earthquakes they should be wise enough to not return. He declared the walls of the houses were incessantly opening. Sometimes one and sometimes another part of the city was experiencing damage, the citizens therefore, lived in constant dread of quaking earth and falling buildings.

Because of this situation, the people often fled to the open country living in tents or booths. This kept them beyond the range of disaster during an earthquake season. The city was often shattered and the migrations from its ruins were frequent. The citizens lived in constant terror. Yet, in spite of this ever present danger the Philadelphians were determined to make the city realize the aims for which it was founded. This constant fear of the day of trial when the citizens must flee for their lives made the language employed by Christ very striking (Verses 10-12). He encouraged His people with the promise that if they were faithful they would one day enter the New Jerusalem - the city of God, where they could dwell safely and "go no more out."

As stated before, Philadelphia was a city of many names. When the city was destroyed by the great earthquake of A.D. 17, Tiberius gave \$600,000 to help rebuild. In appreciation the citizens changed the name of the city to Neo-Cesarca in honor of the donor. He became a cruel tyrant though and the Philadelphians grew ashamed of the new name. During the reign of Vespasian, the Flavian family came to rule.

These changes of name doubtless called for great celebration of dedication. Then, the whole city worshiped the emperor in whose honor the new name was given. The district was vine growing. The most important cult of the city involved the worship of the god of wine, Dionysus. Quite naturally, drunkenness was a chronic social problem in the district.

The church's vigorous missionary activity won many Jews of that city. This resulted in the violent opposition of the local Jewish populace.

When Christ decided to find a city typifying this particular church age, it is interesting He chose the city Philadelphia - "love for the elder brother." This name really captures the spirit of the whole Philadelphian age. If God is our Father, what does that make Jesus? He is our elder brother, our next of kin, our kinsman redeemer - He is all of these to us. The time period for the beginning of this church age is 1750 with the advent of the holiness movement spurred on by a man named John Wesley.

As we go through the text for Philadelphia there will be common and contrasting factors with the next church age (Laodicea). One common factor is they were both built by the Greeks. There were two different rulers. The Greeks thought they were the chosen people of the gods. Because they thought their religion was the highest, their culture was the highest and their religion was the highest. They believed their gods wanted them to go into all the world and make all men disciples of their religion. Have you ever heard the phrase Greeks and Barbarians? The reason for this is Greeks were highly cultured. Statues of their gods were always made in the image of man. In other cultures, such as Egyptian, their statues were half-jackal, half bird, half alligator. The Greeks felt these half-statues made other cultures uncivilized. As a result, when they built cities it was often for the purpose of missionary activity. They wished to spread Greek culture. This is known today as Hellenizing. Their cities were trade centers as well. They were very adept at commerce and trade.

A historian wrote of the contrasts of Philadelphia and Laodicea. His statements were quite telling. He stated Philadelphia as a missionary center was successful because it was more interested in the message than the money. On the other hand, Laodicea was a great failure as a missionary center because it was more interested in the profit than the message. We will see this contrast fit the church ages. Philadelphia has won many more souls than Laodicea could ever imagine.

There are some well versed preachers on television, but there are also misguided ones. Some are Philadelphian and some Laodicean. How do you tell the difference? I advise the offering test. Watch the hour long program. If it is a fifty-five minute commercial for an offering, it is Laodicea. If the man spends fifty-five minutes in song and sermon with a five minute offering, he is more interested in the message than the money. The money he is paid is used to keep his program on the air. He is Philadelphia.

Some supporters of the Laodicean church may defend it by saying “they are raising all that money to win people to Christ.” Do you believe a sinner will watch an hour long offering request? No. Only a Christian will do that. A Christian who is probably not as deep into the Lord as they should be. You can’t win anyone to Christ that way. It is a waste of time and money. The lost don’t watch. They are tuned into another channel. They don’t watch because they don’t understand it. An old Bonanza rerun has more message than some TV evangelists. Do you know what a crooked evangelist will appeal to when they want to raise money? They will say, “If you give \$1000 you’ll get \$10,000 in return. If you give \$100, you’ll get \$1000. If you give \$2000, all your debts will be canceled.” They appeal to the greed in every one of us. This is a cancer growing larger and larger in the church today. The mentality is if you want something from people show them how they will profit from it.

In the Philadelphian age nothing is done this way. People are asked if they love the Lord Jesus Christ and are willing to do as He asks. They ask Jesus to speak to their hearts as to what should be given, it is from this obedience people are willing to give everything the Lord wishes of them. This is the main difference between Laodicea and Philadelphia. If you are a Laodicean pastor you realize if you appeal to the highest level of spirituality in your church (self sacrifice) you will not get as much money as you would if you appealed to the lowest level of spirituality (greed). Philadelphia is nailed to the cross of loving Christ. Laodicea is nailed to the cross of loving themselves. Jesus picked the church that loved the older brother as His example. It was their nature Jesus loved. They were after the heart of God.

**Mat 24:11-12 (KJV) And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.** This is the point of all this TV rubbish. The devil has them in place. The more foolishness they perform on TV the more sinners’ hearts turn away from God. They don’t want anything to do with God, the church, or our ministries. After a sinner is exposed to a few hours, he hates God, the church and preachers. He thinks they are all in it for the money. Don’t be a partaker in this.

**Rom 1:29-32 (KJV) Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.** Look at the last line in this scripture - “not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.” The previous verses beginning with **Romans 1:1** deal primarily with homosexual activity. When you examine this scripture however, it is dealing with self-indulgent idolatry. The last line states you may not be doing these things yourself, but if you support and enjoy this kind of TV idolatry you are guilty of the same sin. Find someone who speaks the truth and support that truth.

**“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write”;** Who is this letter to? It is written to the angel (Pastor) of the church of Philadelphia. My hope, labor and desire is to make my church a Philadelphian church. I want to be a Philadelphian Pastor and to have this letter written to my church. This letter contains what I should preach. This is the core doctrine of my church, because it is what Jesus wants delivered. We are trying to do the best we can according to this message. Jesus did not address this letter to the deacon board. The Pastor does not need permission from any man before he begins to preach. He gets his sermon from God alone. The Philadelphian Christian is not offended by the Word of God, but rather embraces it. He or she allows the Word of God to transform, shape, mold, trim and if need be, break them. The Word of God changes them into a Christian.

**“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;”**

This is Jesus’ personal reference. As we have learned, the personal reference always deals with the nature, challenge, and need of the church in some way. Jesus begins the message with **“These things saith he that is holy.”** Why would He say this? Why would Jesus emphasize this particular aspect of His nature? It is because the church groups to be discussing that make up the Philadelphian age are considered to be of the holiness movement. Holiness is not popular around the world because it prescribes accountability. Most people do not want to be responsible for their actions. When a person is born again, the Lord expects them to come out of sin and never return.

The holiness church believes in personal responsibility. You are not saved by works, but by the gift and grace of God. It is not by works lest any man should boast. Jesus paid for you. He bought you with His blood. You could never live to make yourself as holy as the grace of God can. Once you have been saved and delivered from the powers of sin you have a responsibility to use that liberty and walk in a life of holiness. If you decide not to you risk losing out on God’s promises.

This is the holiness church. People don’t like it, but the Lord is quick to defend this church. He likens them to Him. The Lord is not liked or as popular as He should be either. Jesus identifies Himself with the holiness movement. I, personally, want to be a part of whatever Jesus identifies Himself with. Some misunderstand what holiness is by thinking holiness is the way you dress. It is actually the condition of your heart and the choices you make.

Jesus also refers to Himself as **“he that is true.”** This church has an advantage over every other church. This is owed to the Sardis church. The Philadelphian church is the first to have the whole Bible, entirely and freely, in its hands. The church of Sardis had to fight, bleed, and die for the freedom of the Holy Word. Jesus is designated as “the true one” and “the holy one.” These are titles usually reserved for God alone. This is possibly to refute the Jews of Philadelphia who ridiculed Christ as the false Messiah. It was in fact, the Jews defiant in rejection of the religion of Christ who created the problems for the Philadelphian church. More probable however, it is written to show as holy and true Christ will keep His promises. The living Christ speaks to the church as one who has full authority - coming out of and transcending the ancient religious life of Israel.

William Tyndale's Old and New Testaments were the first English translations of the scriptures and were taken directly from the original Hebrew and Greek languages. They remain, as the Times of London stated, "the basis of all English language Bibles until the recent fascias. It's phrases and cadences, both homely and pungent, are so woven into the language as to be rarely recognized as the work of an individual author." (i.e. William Tyndale) Tyndale's 1526 New Testament was the first ever printed in English. In the 1539's he also translated the first fourteen books of the Old Testament. He thus became the first man to translate anything from Hebrew into English as Hebrew was virtually unknown in England at that time.

The sages assembled by King James to prepare the Authorized Version of 1611 (KJV), so often praised for their unlikely "group inspiration," took over Tyndale's work (though unacknowledged) almost in its entirety. 85% of the Authorized Version New Testament and the first half of the New Testament are taken from Tyndale's work. The same is true of the Geneva Bible used by the Pilgrims and Puritans. Where the Authorized version wavered from its Tyndale's roots, it frequently offered no improvement. Tyndale carefully chose words which would express in clear terms the meaning of the original Biblical language as: congregation, elders, repentance, and love. The committee which drafted the KJV sometimes reverted to words more acceptable to the church hierarchy: church, bishops, penance, and charity.

The King James Bible is a blood-bought book. Not only is the blood of Christ there to redeem it, but the blood of William Tyndale, John Rogers, and a host of others was shed to place it into the hands of the people. There are so many translations today. Ask yourself which of these is correct. I would rather have the Bible covered in blood than the one covered in profit. Many of the new translations of today are profit making books. There are very few Christian owned Bible publishers left in today's world. Secular owned companies have bought the Bible houses. These companies do not revere the Word of God. To them it is a commodity with a very large market. If they can get enough of their Bible on the market and get people to believe their version is the better one then they have a high grossing profit. These companies are willing to do whatever they have to in order to be popular with the fickle, ungodly world. That is not how we got the King James Bible. They didn't care who liked it. They kept the translation as close to God's Word as a human being can translate.

After reading the King James Version all of my Christian life, I can tell you those human beings were not alone when the pen hit the paper. It is the book I will stay with. You would be wise to do the same.

Philadelphia had the Bible readily available. The more they read the more they realized everything Christ said was true. Remember, up until this point churches were preacher led. A layman could now get his hands on a Bible and read it for himself. He did not have to ask a priest or scribe for the answer. He could find the answer for himself.

The devil would like it very much if we would worship that way again. He wants us to look to man for an answer. The enemy would really like it if we would again turn to those scholars who know Greek to ask them which is the real Bible. I know which one the real one is and I am going to keep it. It has lasted 400 years. I think it will take me through the Rapture.

**"he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;"**



Images of Janus. The two faces represent knowledge before and after the flood.

Janus, whose key the Pope bears, was the god of doors and hinges. He was called "Patulcius" and "Clusius" - "the opener and shutter." This had a blasphemous meaning. He was worshiped in Rome as the grand mediator. Whatever important business was at hand, whatever deity was to be invoked, an invocation had to first be addressed to Janus, the god of gods. In his mysterious divinity the characters of father and son were combined. Without him, no prayer could be heard. The "door of



heaven" could not be opened. It was this same god whose worship prevailed so exceedingly in Asia Minor at the time our Lord sent, by His servant John, the seven Apocalyptic messages to the churches established in that region.

This is why we find in one of these messages Jesus actually rebuking the profane ascription of His own peculiar dignity to that divinity and asserting His exclusive claim to the prerogative usually attributed to His rival. Thus, Revelation 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*" . Janus was worshiped as Mediator in Asia Minor and Rome equally. It was said the government of the world belonged to him. "All power in heaven, in earth, and sea," according to Pagan ideas, was vested in Janus. He was said to have the "power of turning the hinge"- of opening the doors of heaven or opening and shutting the gates of peace or war upon earth.

Philadelphia was called "city of the open door." Jesus said He has the key of David. He was the fulfillment of that holiness and truth which had come to have so deep a place in the consciousness of Israel. Jesus said to this church He is the one who opens doors - He has the key to the kingdom. Why is that important to us? There is a man in Rome (the Pope) who claims he has the key to the kingdom. Jesus does not agree. Jesus said He has the key and will open a door for you. Why is this important to the church?



## Mat 13:25



All of the other churches came into being because someone else opened a door for them. Who opened the door for the Pergamos church? Constantine. He proclaimed Christianity as the religion of the Roman Empire. Because of that, whole armies were marched down to rivers and baptized as Christians. In the parable of the sower we are told, **Mat 13:25 (KJV) "But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way."** These men were baptized as Christians as a ritual. They were not saved and born again. They became tares sowed in the wheat of Christianity.

Who opened the door for the Thyatira church? An almighty, powerful Pope put armies into place. They marched into countries, conquered them, and put people to the sword if they would not be Roman Catholic.

Who opened the door for the Sardis church? If you were the King of England, you opened the door for the Anglican church. If you were a noble of Germany, you opened the door for the Lutheran church. They had kings, armies, and powers. Wherever the British Empire went, the Anglican church could follow. In the Holiness movement we will not see kings, we will not see armies, and we will not see swords to take them into the world.

The Church of God I am part of is now in 157 countries. Not an army has marched, a gun shot, or a sword waved. Who has opened these doors around the world? The Lord Jesus Christ. He said to the Philadelphian church He has the keys and will open the door for you. There is no one who can shut it or open it once He has closed it. This is His personal reference. He alone can make it possible.

13. Who is the letter addressed to?

14. Why does Jesus say "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;"?

**Rev. 3:8 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.**

**The Comendation - "I know thy works:"** What is our work? As we have learned, we must spread the truth to the world and make disciples of all men. This is what we are trying to do today.

**“behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it:”** What is the first thing Jesus said upon examination of Philadelphia’s work and doctrine? Jesus said **“behold, I have set before thee an open door,”** Behold means to look upon. He was saying He approves of what they teach.

I was teaching a seminar in Bonita Springs, FL. There was a man observing me as I taught. I had no idea who he was. I did not realize he was a man of importance in the church world. When the seminar was almost over, he came to me and said, “I am Goodwin Smith, overseer of the Churches of God in Bermuda. We will be having a training course for two weeks, but I haven’t chosen my speaker yet. I want you to be that teacher.” We grabbed the slides and the projector and headed to Bermuda. I taught this same Revelation seminar to all of the churches there. What God said was, I have examined your doctrine. Here is an open door. Go and preach to my people.

This is what Christ said to Philadelphia - I like your doctrine. I will open a door for you to take what you preach, teach, and believe to all nations.

**“for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word,”** Jesus is going to open a door. Why does He open the door? It is because they have a little strength. This does not mean the church was weak and puny. This means Philadelphia had no one to open the door for them. They didn’t have a Pope or King or a Caesar. What they did have is God’s Word. They kept that word and did not deny the name of Christ.

**“and hast not denied my name.”** This means they kept His doctrine pure. Bible doctrine reveals to us the character and nature of Jesus Christ. “Not denying His name” is done by proclaiming He is holy; He was born of a virgin; He is incarnate; He died and rose again; He is coming back. These reveal the nature of Jesus Christ. They tell who He is in relationship to whom we are and who we should be. He told them to keep His word and He would be their army. He will be Caesar. He will be their Pope. He was going to be the one to send them into the world.

There were missionaries in a compound in the Philippines. This was an area known to be inhabited by communist terrorists. The terrorists sent a message into the compound that they would be coming to destroy them. Everyone in the compound expected to be killed that evening. They were in a remote area in a mission compound. The missionaries spent what they believed to be their last moments, in prayer. The night passed and nothing happened. This was very odd because when terrorists threatened, they always carried through. One of the local natives in the Christian compound saw one of the terrorists he knew in the village. He went to him asking him why they did not attack when they said they were going to. The terrorist’s reply was astounding. He explained they did not attack because of all the armed guards standing on top of the walls. They didn’t see armed guards. Psalm 34:7 of the King James Version says, “The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.” You are never alone when you are a Philadelphian Christian on an assignment.



15. What are your works?

16. What does Jesus mean that he has "set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it:"?

17. What does Jesus mean by "**thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name**"?

**Rev 3:9 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.**

**"Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan,"**

The word synagogue means church - Jesus will make the people who are members of a church that Satan controls to come to Philadelphia to be exposed to the true Gospel.

**"which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie;"** This does not mean the people who said they were Jews were Satanists. Remember when this scripture was written. This was during the apostolic age when most of the Christian converts were Jews. Jesus meant the devil is in control of a church whose people say they are Christian, but really aren't. Their confessions were lies. They thought they were already Christians. Jesus said He would make them worship at the feet of Philadelphia to experience real salvation.

This tells us one of the ways Philadelphia will grow as a movement and church. God will reach into the Sardis church, the Thyatira church, and the Pergamos church. He is going to find those who think they are Christians, but have never really heard the saving Gospel. The devil is in control of these places, but God will cause the real truth to be exposed in a Philadelphian church.

**"behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet,"** What does Jesus mean by worshiping before thy feet? This is in reference to the wooden prayer altars found at the front of all Holiness churches. You can tell what kind of church you are in by the way the furniture is set up. If you are in a Catholic church there is a fence with the altar behind - the priest is between you and God. In a Greek Orthodox church the altar is hidden behind a screen and the priest still stands between you and God. Sardis churches have a pulpit on the side - you have to deal with the pastor to get to the altar.

What will you find in a Philadelphian church, a big, oak pulpit right in the middle of the church? You can't get away from it. It takes three men to move it. There are altars in front of the pulpit. You have to go through no one to get to God. You can go straight to the altar, get down on your knees and pray. When you pray at this altar I will walk by and pray for you. You will be worshiping at my feet. You are not worshiping the pastor in any way. You are worshiping God at the feet of the Philadelphian church.

When you ask the members of the Philadelphian church where they came from you will get many answers. They will say they were Anglican or Presbyterian or even Catholic. They will say they there because they have now become Philadelphian. They were brought to the truth about the Bible and were indoctrinated with the true Gospel. This is very different from the next church, Laodicea. They got touched by the Spirit but tried to make the Spirit into what they were without ever changing themselves. This created and creates confusion in their doctrine.

**“And to know that I have loved thee.”** Why do you think Jesus uses this remark? It is because many people will be surprised God loves us. This isn't the talk on the street about us. People think we swing from the chandeliers and every other wild thing you can imagine. They used to say there was sawdust on our church floors and that we would pick it up and throw it in peoples faces causing them to bark like a dog and roll around. Afterwards, you couldn't drink or smoke anymore. That would be the most amazing sawdust ever made! I wish it were true. I would grab a bag of sawdust and run through each of the local bars. I can see the headlines of the local paper now “The people were barking like dogs, but they wouldn't drink any more.” This is the devil at work. He doesn't want people coming into church and getting right with God. When people finally come into a place by the leading of the Holy Spirit they hear the Word, get saved, and feel fellowship with other Christians. They can't believe what they feel and find themselves wondering “What took me so long to get here?”

18. Who are the people referred to as the "synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie;"

19. What does Jesus mean by "behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee"?

**Rev. 3:10 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.**

**“because thou hast kept the word of my patience.”** What is the word of His patience? One of the things Jesus said in John 14:3- KJV was “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” In Revelation 3:11- KJV He tells us “Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

He told us He is going to come back. I used to look at this verse and think it is the word of patience because we were waiting for Him. For 250 years Philadelphia style preachers have been preaching about the Rapture. They have been preaching about the Tribulation period. Now some goof ball on television tells us some little woman in Scotland had a dream resulting in this doctrine. Let me just tell you before that woman in Scotland had that dream the Bible was already written. ***1 Cor. 15:51-53 (KJV)“Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality .”***



The authors of the Bible speak of the coming of Jesus Christ and our gathering unto Him. The Word of God proclaimed long before any dream the Rapture, the Tribulation period, and Christ's return. This is a prophecy given to John, a holy man of God. This TV preacher is spreading a lie straight from the pits of hell. Philadelphia kept the message alive "Jesus is coming back." I thought we were being very patient because we have been waiting 250 years for Jesus to come. Then I thought if anyone is being patient it is Jesus. He has been waiting 2000 years to come get His bride. Jesus is waiting to come. He is wanting to come. Everything must develop though. The church has to go through its seven phases. God the Father has to say when it is time. New Jerusalem has to be completed and on its way to the bride. I would imagine it is almost done. Jesus said because you have kept the word of patience I will do this for you.

**"I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation,"** What is the hour of temptation? This is the seven-year Tribulation period. Some think we are already in the Tribulation period. They actually teach this. These people have not read too much about the Tribulation. If the Tribulation were happening now, we wouldn't be so happy and well fed. By one year after the Rapture of the church the world will be rocked by a nuclear war and destruction it has never known. We will see this starting in Chapter 4. We are not in the Tribulation period. We can't be until the Antichrist signs a seven-year peace treaty with the Jews. Where is the peace treaty? When the treaty is signed, there will be two witnesses of from God, calling down fire from heaven and stopping the rain from falling. A new Jewish temple has to be built on the Muslim controlled property of the Dome of the Rock in Israel. Temple priests will be at the temple once again offering animal sacrifices to God. The church has to be Raptured before the Tribulation begins. If we were in the Tribulation already, Jesus would have said He would save us from the last half

hour. No - Jesus said the whole hour. Jesus promises Philadelphia He will save them from the Tribulation because they have kept His message alive. With this study guide we are keeping the message alive and fresh in the hearts of man - keeping whoever reads or hears this message, ready to go in the Rapture.

Jesus says **"which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth."** Some will try to say the things in this book will only happen in Israel. It won't bother us in America. The scripture says ***all the world*** and ***them that dwell upon the earth***. This will touch the entire world. In certain aspects of the Tribulation, America will face terrible loss and suffering.

20. What is the "word of his patience" and how has it been kept?

21. What is the "hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth"?

**Condemnation** - We notice for this Church there is no condemnation. There is no condemnation because God likes everything He sees in this Church. They have the right Word (or works), attitude, and motivation. This Church In every way is pleasing to God, therefore God encourages them in the next verse to keep and protect everything He has entrusted to them. He knows the last Church that will come will have nothing desirable about it. The Church of Laodicea gets no commendation because there is nothing good in it. Everything about Laodicea is false, worldly, and man authored. Laodicea is a dangerous Church and that is the reason for God's warning to Philadelphia to protect everything that it has. Laodicea will try and succeed at stealing some of Philadelphia's members, and this word to protect and guard what it has is a warning in regards to Laodicea's thieving efforts and erroneous doctrines.

**Rev. 3:11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.**

**"Behold, I come quickly:"** You don't have to wonder if Jesus is coming. He says right here "I come quickly". How will He save us from the Tribulation? He will come to us quickly and take us away. We can't be on earth and be kept from the series of events this planet will face. The TV evangelists would have us to believe we will all go through the Tribulation period, God will protect us, and we will prosper greatly in that time. We should buy lots of stock in soy beans. We will be blessed and still have our Cadillac. If there is a nuclear war, earthquakes, and no island left standing, where will you drive that Cadillac? There won't even be a garage to park it in.

**"hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown."** Strong advise. What does it mean? This means someone will try to take your crown just about the time you will soon collect it. He will try to steal your crown from you. If he is successful, you will lose. What do we fight for? Jesus doesn't mean our carpet or Cathedrals. He doesn't mean our buildings. He is speaking of our doctrine, attitude and our worship. He tells us to keep what we have and protect it. There are lunatics in this world that say God is changing everything. It is a pyridine shift. We look at everything in a new way. It is certainly new. I will say that for them. They say not to miss the move of God. I will say to them, "No thanks. Just keep on moving. I don't want to be involved in any of your dealings."

Jesus said to keep what I have. I am going to keep an old-fashioned, Holy Ghost filled, Holiness church. We will preach from the King James Version, sing from a hymn book, and win souls just like we always have. The Gospel works on today's brand of sinner just as it did 100 or 1000 years ago. There is no need to improve, fix, or make it better. Why would you tamper with something already perfect? You would not take a new paintbrush to a Rafael painting. I will not try to repaint the Bible. I will not take my church and make it like the world. Jesus said to hold on.

There are many men trying to change us. Did you know I can take your crown away without changing what you do? If you are a Philadelphian Christian you pay tithes, you support missions, you are a giver, you study the Word of God, you go to church, and you worship. I can change you from Philadelphian to Laodicean without changing the physical things you do.

You see a Philadelphian church gives for the glory of God. They are obedient. If I were a Laodicean preacher however, I know there are just not enough Philadelphian Christians to get as much money as I want. This is how I would change you. When Philadelphia passes the plate they never promise wealth. The Scripture tells you God will repay you and press it down to the same measure. He will give it back. I can change you though by telling you all your debts will be canceled. If you give \$100, you will receive \$1000. I can persuade you to begin to look in God's Word for loopholes that will excuse your sin. Maybe you would look at the Word of God to find how to make yourself prosper. You could begin to consider your level of success instead of finding the will of God. You may yield to your flesh. I can stand now and turn you from a self sacrificing, totally dedicated, sold out in love with God Christian. A person who does not follow a bunch of crazy signs, but is trying to do the will of God. I can take you from that and turn you into a selfish Christian who will try to use God in any way to get his possessions back. The moment I change your mind I have stolen your crown.

## The Judgment Seat Of Christ

2 Cor 5:10 (KJV) For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.



The Incorruptible Crown  
(The Victors Crown)  
1 Cor 9:25 (KJV)



Crown of Rejoicing  
(The Soul Winners Crown)  
1 Th 2:19-20 (KJV)



Crown Of Righteousness  
2 Tim 4:8 (KJV)



Crown Of Glory  
(Crown For Service)  
1 Pet 5:2-4 (KJV)



Crown Of Life  
(Martyr's Crown)  
Rev 2:10 (KJV)

When you get to heaven, you will pass before the Judgment Seat of Christ. You will be rewarded for the things you did for the glory of God. Your works will be tried by fire. Do you realize if you do anything for God, He gets the glory? If I do anything in obedience to God, He gets the glory. If I give \$100 to get \$1000, I do that out of greed. Any sinner will take that action. Any gambler or half-drunk will give you \$100 for \$1000. The moment I shift into that mode I am just as greedy, carnal, and manipulative as I can be. **if** I get to heaven, my works will be tried.

I can look at the life of Peter. What happened to him? He was crucified upside-down. What did he get? A martyr's crown. How about John the Baptist, what did he get his crown for? Imprisoned, beaten, head chopped off. Then I look at the catacomb Christians and how they received their crowns. Now I see a Laodicean prosperity man. I look at his works. He named and claimed 23 Cadillac's and one green

Rolls Royce, but he sent the green Rolls back and got a blue one instead. Well praise God!

This won't give God any glory. If God gave you a car because you needed one you don't need to claim a reward for that - the car was its own reward. When you get a chance to be a missionary, teach a Sunday School class, a chance to pray, or a chance to make a difference in someone's life you put yourself second. You put God first. This gives glory to God and you are rewarded. Jesus does not want us to let someone manipulate us. He does not want us to allow someone to take our crown - to change our hearts.

22. How will Jesus keep us from that hour?

23. What does Jesus mean by "Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown"?

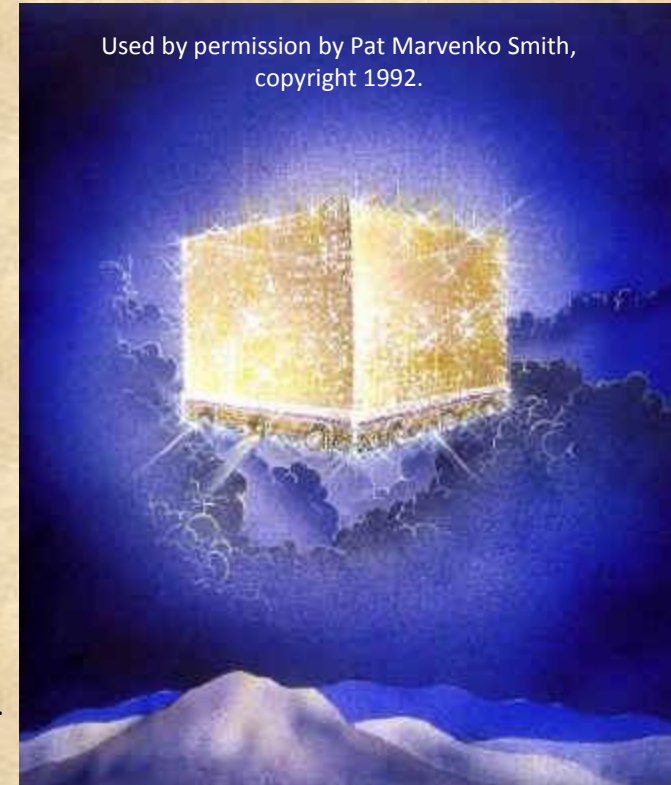
**Rev. 3:12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.**

This is the Over comer's promise: **"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."**

There is nothing that must be overcome in the nature of Philadelphia. However, there is a man coming whose efforts we must overcome. He will try to steal Philadelphia's crown. Who is this man? He is the pastor of Laodicea - a sheep thief and a crown thief. Laodicea is deadly. Philadelphia is going to be a pillar in the temple of God. It will be in the city of God. Jesus will write upon Philadelphia a new name. This means that their name is written in the Lamb's book of Life. Jesus owns Philadelphia as His own. We will see Laodicea trying to build its kingdom on earth, but Jesus tells us to overcome their attempts. When we do He will give us a temple, a city, and He will give us Heaven itself (new Jerusalem).



This is John Wesley and George Whitefield (pictured later). Before they were even converted, they were a part of the Holiness Club at the university they attended. This is a statue of John Wesley on St. Simon's Island in Georgia. He was a missionary there. Do you know what he said about being a missionary in America? His missionary service was frustrated by failure. On his way home from America, he wrote in His Journal: "I went to America to convert the Indians, but Oh, who shall convert me?" That was before he was saved though. A man will always be a failure as a missionary if he is not saved. A Moravian brethren on board a ship on which Wesley was traveling brought him to the truth. The only thing he revealed about his journey was he learned he didn't have God in his life, but he need Him.



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His warm heart experience was the dividing point of his life. May 24th 1738, while aged 35, he felt his heart "strangely warmed" while listening to Martin Luther's introduction to Paul's Letter to the Romans, while at a devotional meeting of a group of Moravian Brethren. He wrote: "About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart by faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for my salvation. And an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."

In the first half of the eighteenth century the churches in England, both established and dissenting, sank into a state of decline. This happened by formal services, cold, intellectual belief, and a lack of moral power over the population. From this condition England was awakened by a group of earnest preachers led by brothers John and Charles Wesley and George Whitefield. Of these, Whitefield was the greater pulpit orator, stirring the hearts of untold thousands in England and America. Charles Wesley was the sacred poet. His hymns have enriched every collection since his time. John Wesley however, was the unquestionable leader and statesman of the movement. As early as 1732, the Moravians began to establish foreign missions. They sent Hans Egede to Greenland. Soon afterwards, the same church was working among the Indians of North America, the West Indies, and also in the Orient. In 1739 Wesley began preaching the "witness of the spirit" as a personal conscience. He then formed societies of those who accepted his teachings.

At first these societies were conducted by class leaders, but later Wesley called forth a body of lay preachers. These men carried his doctrine and their experience to every part of Great Britain and the American colonies. His followers were greatly nicknamed "Methodists"- Wesley accepted the name. In England they became known as

lay preachers. These men carried his doctrine and their experience to every part of Great Britain and the American colonies. His followers were greatly nicknamed "Methodists"- Wesley accepted the name. In England they became known as

"Wesleyan Methodists." Before John Wesley's death they were numbered in the thousands. Wesley always declared himself a loyal member of the Church of



England. He regarded his society not as a separate denomination, but an organization within the English church. Nevertheless, after the American Revolution in 1784, he organized the Methodists in the United States (at the time 14,000) into a separate church. The Wesleyan movement awakened the Christian life among the churchmen and the dissenters to new power.

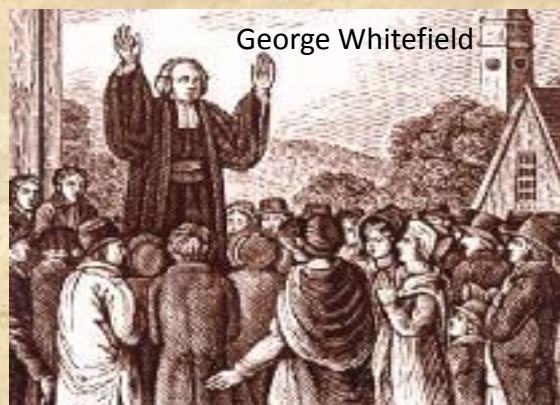
No single leader in Christian history has obtained as large a personal following as John Wesley. The Reformation established the right of private judgment regarding religion and the Bible independent of priestly or churchly authority.

This is Alders gate Street were once stood the meeting house of the Moravians It was here that John Wesley made the statement his heart was greatly warmed at Alders gate. From then on John and Charles Wesley were absolutely changed men.

The Holiness movement was fueled by a man named Jacobus Arminius. He challenged Calvinism with the doctrine of free will. This doctrine holds man was given free will from God to make decisions. Also, man is responsible for the decisions he makes.

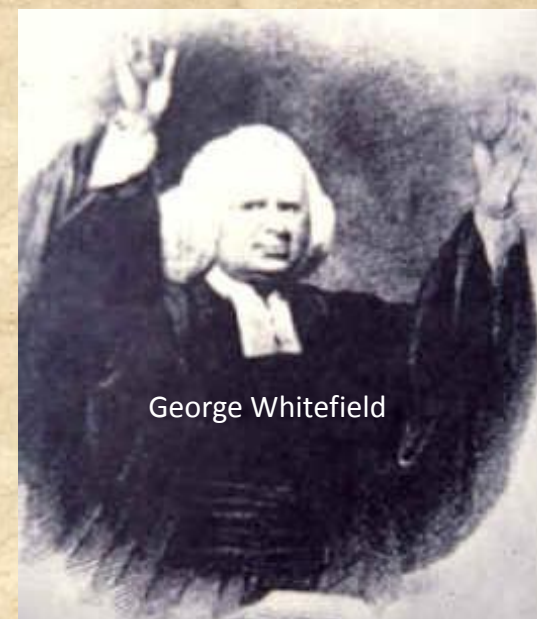
At one time, Anglican and Catholic clergymen believed they owned the parish spiritually. If a man desired to preach in a parish, even if it were his own land, the Bishop of the parish had to approve all religious activities. Not all of these Bishops were Christian. John Wesley although still Anglican, was a changed man and this began to change the messages he preached. He was so different the clergy began shutting him out their of parishes. Out of frustration he went into the cemetery, stood on top of his father's tombstone, and said, "I look upon the whole world as my parish." From that point on he paid no attention to priests who claimed to own a parish. If there were sinners who needed the Gospel, he went. He went and delivered the Word of God. That was an open door.

Another man who represents an open door is John Whitfield. Due to hyper-Calvinism, predestination, Eternal Security, and other ideas which surrounded spiritual thought, people were not evangelical in reaching others. Mostly, people stayed in big cathedrals. Lords, Ladies, and other Nobles were preached to by fine robed priests. George Whitefield went about things a little differently. For example, he went to the open field of the Cornish mines and began to open the minds of the coal miners. Have you ever seen a man coming out of a coal mine? If you catch them in a rainstorm, you see a mud ball in a set of coveralls. They have dust all over them. One day as



George Whitefield

Whitefield was preaching it began to rain. The miners started to run for cover, but Whitfield proclaimed, "You can hide from the rain, but who will hide you from the wrath of God?" It is said all 500 dropped to their knees and began to repent. This opened the door for open-field tent revivals, out to the brush arbors, or anywhere sinners are. We don't need cathedrals to preach the Gospel. We just need people to preach it to.



George Whitefield



Count Nikolaus Zinzendorf

Throughout the history of the Church, it has always been the most ardent lovers of Jesus who have felt the greatest need for more of His presence. Surely it is with this class of saints that Count Zinzendorf belongs. For Zinzendorf, loving fellowship with Christ was the essential manifestation of the Christian life. Throughout the Count's life, "His blessed presence" was his all consuming theme. He had chosen from an early age as his life-motto the now famous confession; "I have one passion; it is Jesus, Jesus only." Flowing out of Zinzendorf's passionate love for Christ came a life disciplined in prayer. "Count Zinzendorf had early learned the secret of prevailing prayer. So active had he been in establishing circles for prayer that on leaving the college at Halle, at 16 years of age, he handed the famous professor Franke a list of seven praying societies." Also preceding the great Moravian revival of 1727, it was Count Zinzendorf who was used to encourage prayer for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit. John Greenfield describes for us the constant prayer that followed the revival of 1727. "Was there ever in the whole of church history such an astonishing prayer meeting as that which beginning in 1727, went on one hundred years? It was known as the 'Hourly Intercession.' And it meant that by relays of brothers and sisters, prayer without ceasing was made to God for all the work and wants of His church." The best antidote for a powerless Church

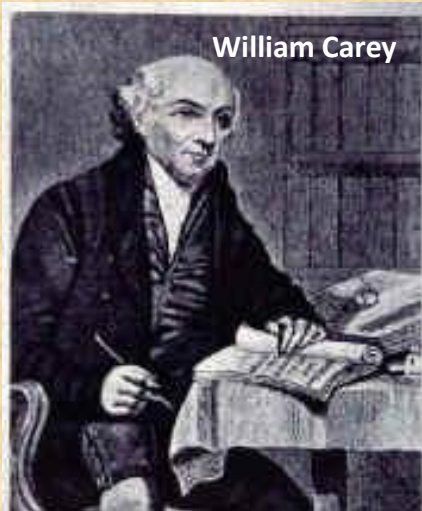
is the influence of a praying man. The influence of Count Zinzendorf's prayer-life did not stop with one small community. It ultimately went on to influence the whole world. As Zinzendorf's passion for Jesus grew, so did his passion for the lost. He became determined to evangelize the world with a handful of saints, equipped only with a burning love for Jesus and the power of prayer. The Moravian Brotherhood readily received and perpetuated the passion of their leader. A seal was designed to express their newfound missionary zeal. The seal was composed of a lamb on a crimson ground, with the cross of resurrection and a banner of triumph with the motto; "Our Lamb has conquered, let us follow Him." The Moravians recognized themselves in debt to the world as the trustees of the gospel. They were taught to embrace a lifestyle of self-denial, sacrifice and prompt obedience. They followed the call of the Lamb to go anywhere and with an emphasis upon the worst and hardest places as having the first claim. No soldiers of the cross have ever been bolder as pioneers, more patient or persistent in difficulties, more heroic in suffering, or more entirely devoted to Christ and the souls of men than the Moravian Brotherhood.

The Moravians beautifully explain their motivation for missions in the following 1791 evangelical report. "The simple motive of the brethren for sending missionaries to distant nations was and is an ardent desire to promote the salvation of their fellow men, by making known to them the gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ. It grieved them to hear of so many thousands and millions of the human race sitting in darkness and groaning beneath the yoke of sin and the tyranny of Satan; and remembering the glorious promises given in the Word of God, that the heathen also should be the reward of the sufferings and death of Jesus; and considering His commandment to His followers, to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature, they were filled with confident hopes that if they went forth in obedience unto, and believing in His word, their labor would not be in vain in the Lord. They were not dismayed in reflecting on the smallness of their means and abilities, and they hardly knew their way to the heathen whose salvation they so ardently longed for, nor by the prospect of enduring hardships of every kind and even perhaps the loss of their lives in the attempt. Yet their love to their Savior and their fellow sinners for whom He shed His blood, far outweighed all these considerations. They went forth in the strength of their God and He has wrought wonders in their behalf."

Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758) ranks as the foremost of all Americans in metaphysics and theology. He was the greatest theologian of the eighteenth century on either side of the Atlantic. This is another man who recognized an open door. I don't know if you would like this man as a preacher. He wrote his sermons in manuscript form and read them. He couldn't see very well, but man could he write. One day he preached the famous sermon "Sinners in the Hand of an Angry God." Have you ever seen the movie Pollyanna? The sermon Carl Malden preaches in the movie is that sermon. When Jonathan Edwards preached this sermon, it is said it was preached with so much anointing the parishioners had to hold on to the rails and banisters to keep from falling into Hell! They thought they were certainly going to Hell. On the way home he heard people crying all over the community. It caused a revival and the "Great Awakening" which swept up the Eastern Seaboard of the United States of America. It helped shape the character of our forefathers. Who in turn shaped our Constitution, Declaration of Independence, and the kind of nation we would become.



Jonathan Edwards



William Carey

William Carey - father of modern missions. The only Baptist honored in Westminster Abbey. He went to India and influenced hundreds of missionaries.

William Carey was a shoemaker, self-educated, and became a Baptist minister in 1789. In the face of strong opposition he began to urge the sending of missionaries to the heathen world.

The American missionary enterprise received its first inspiration from the famous "Haystack Prayer Meeting" in 1806 at Williams College, Massachusetts. A group of students met in a field for prayer on the subject of missions. They were interrupted by a storm and had to take shelter under a haystack. It was there they consecrated their life work for Christ in a heathen world. Out of this meeting came the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.



Haystack Monument, Williams College, 1806.

Under the sponsorship of the American Board of Foreign Missions, five young men were ordained at Salem, Massachusetts, in February, 1812, to be the first American foreign missionaries. They left soon thereafter for India.

*Historical Pictures Service—Chicago*

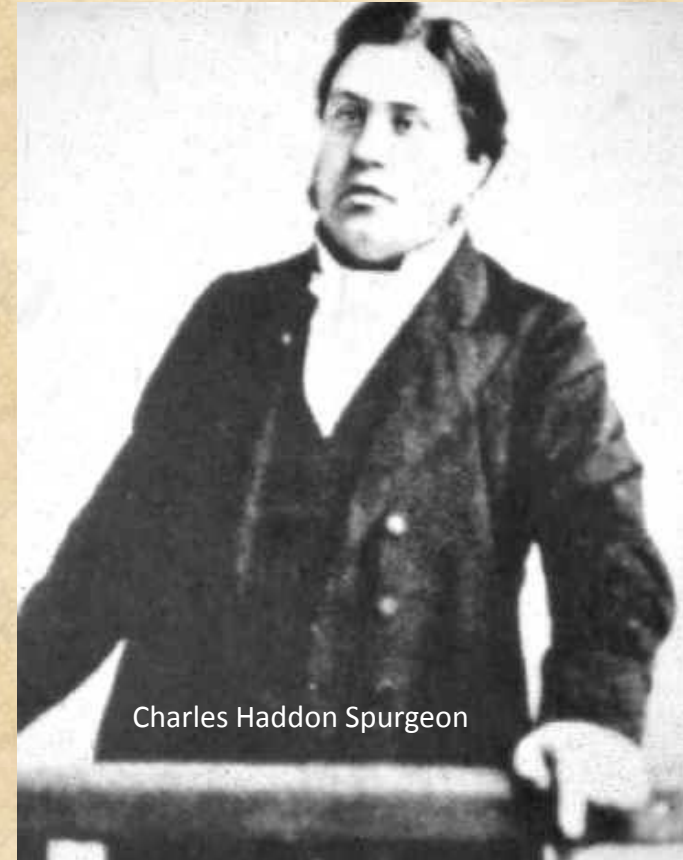


**Adoniram Judson 1st American Missionary**

The Americans sent four missionaries. Newell and Hale went to India. The two others, Judson and Rice, changed their views regarding baptism while on their voyage to the far east. Consequently, they resigned from the American Board. Their action resulted in the formation of the American Baptist Missionary Society. Judson and Rice began missions in Burma. The example of the Congregationalists and the Baptists was followed by other denominations. In time, each church had its own board with its own missionaries. Our first American missionary, Adoniram Judson, going to Rangoon, Burma

Charles Haddon Spurgeon was born in the old-fashioned village of Kelvedon, Essex on June 19<sup>th</sup>, 1834. It is somewhat remarkable that throughout his whole life he displayed a strong partiality for the county of his birth. To mingle with those he knew in boyhood and to revisit the scenes of his early days was a pleasure and delight for him. The Spurgeons came from an old Puritan stock. They were a race of sturdy nonconformists. This was a family of Pseudo-Baptists until Charles and his brother James declared for believers baptism by immersion.

A description of his conversion could not be better given than in his own words: "The secret of my distress was this: I did not know the Gospel. For five years I had been in the most fearful distress of mind. I was in a Christian land; I had Christian parents; but I did not fully understand the freeness and simplicity of the Gospel." Spurgeon's state of mind at that time was pitiable in the extreme. He was tortured by doubts, surrounded by fears, and beset by unbelief. He might well have said, "Who will deliver me from the fear of death?" It is evident one task was accomplished. One lesson had been learned.



**Charles Haddon Spurgeon**

“From glory unto glory were dim leadings of his soul on that memorable Sabbath. In the morning, at the humble Primitive Methodist chapel, he found salvation to the joy of his soul. He possessed the assurance that was realized by a knowledge that there is ‘life in a look at the Crucified One’. But the joy was not yet complete. The experience of full liberty and perfect freedom had yet to be known and to be enjoyed.”

“Charles Haddon Spurgeon has been described, and rightly so, as the Elijah of the nineteenth century. He was a mighty leader in evangelical Israel. He had but one sermon, yet it was always new. Truly in his highest, noblest, and truest sense he was great. His special gifts are possessed by none, his unwearied devotion all may emulate. By his death we have been deprived of a courageous, faithful disciple - a man of striking power and strong personality. He was Christ’s gift, a precious gift to the Church of the nineteenth century. He has gone to his well-earned rest, but he has left behind him a precious legacy of hope, trust, faith, and courage.”

In Mr. Spurgeon’s desk was found by his secretary the following verse. It was in his own handwriting, which was as clear as any he ever penned, and was as follows: —

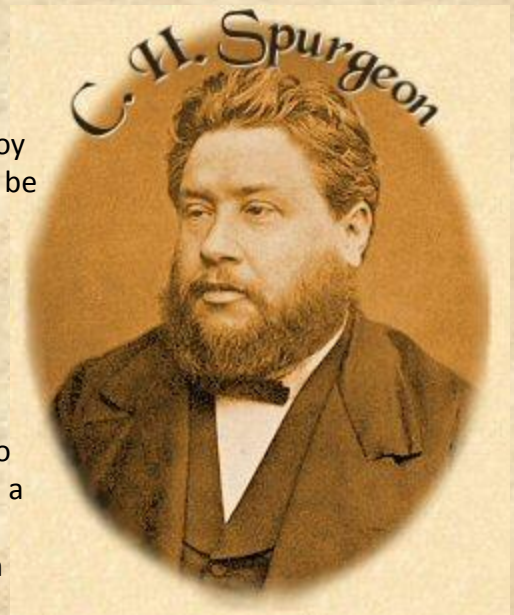
“No cross, no crown; no loss, no gain; They, too, must suffer who would reign. He best can part with life without a sigh, Whose daily living is to daily die. Youth pleads for age, age pleads for rest, Who pleads for heaven will plead the best.”

Philadelphia is a revival church. What was the city of Philadelphia famous for? They had many earthquakes which required them to rebuild. Do you know what a revival really is? It is knocking down the old city and building a new one. When revival happens it takes our old, crusty, sin-hardened heart and knocks it down. We are renewed in God’s Holy Spirit. This is what kept Philadelphia fresh and new.



David Livingstone has an amazing story! He was mauled by lions, lost an eye, lost use of one arm and still stayed in the mission field. When he died, it was on his knees in prayer. They buried his heart in Uganda and then carried his body to Westminster Abbey. His body is buried under the slab pictured here. When and if Prince Charles goes to be crowned King of England he will have to walk over the top of a man who has a bigger crown than Charles will ever see.

With all the true men of God buried at Westminster Abbey, when the Rapture happens it will tear the Abbey to pieces!





THIS IS A CHURCH THAT IS PROMISED A CROWN. YOU HAVE TO WEAR THIS ONE BEFORE HE WILL GIVE YOU THIS ONE.

This is the promise Jesus gave to Philadelphia - New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven. We are not going to be rich on this earth by all the junk out there. We are not part of this world. We are part of a different world. They that will be rich pierce themselves with many sorrows. Isn't that what scripture says? New Jerusalem - the Heavenly City - gold tried in the fire.

24. What does Jesus mean by "**Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out:**"?

25. What does Jesus mean by "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"?

**Rev. 3:13 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.**

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

Can you hear what the Spirit is saying to your heart? It is so clear, but so many self-proclaimed Christians will not hear the message of Philadelphia. They will be left behind to face the Tribulation period. What will you do? Philadelphia is the apple of God's eye. The next church (Laodicea) is the half-bitten worm in Jesus' mouth. We will see that Jesus will spew this church from His mouth into the Tribulation period.

26. What does this mean "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches"?