

2024 Remaining Faithful in Days of Deception

Love Truth

Revelation 3:7 "...to the **angel of the church in Philadelphia** write, 'These things says **He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts**, and shuts and no one opens": ⁸"I know your works. See, I have set before you an **open door**, and no one can shut it; for **you have a little strength**, [you have] have **kept My word**, and [you have] have **not denied My name**. ⁹Indeed I will make *those* of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—indeed I will make them come and **worship before your feet**, and to **know that I have loved you**. ¹⁰Because you have **kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world**, to test those who dwell on the earth. ¹¹Behold, I am **coming quickly! Hold fast** what you have, that no one may take your crown. ¹²He who overcomes, I will make him a **pillar in the temple** of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will **write on him the name** of My God and the **name of the city** of My God, the **New Jerusalem**, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And *I will write on him My new name*. ¹³"He who has an ear, let him hear what the **Spirit says to the churches.**" '

Jesus to Peter: Follow Me to the cross. **Peter said to Jesus:** What about John?

Jesus said to Peter: What if I keep John alive till I come? **You follow Me**

- **Apostle John** Son of Thunder to Apostle of Love/Defender of Deity of Jesus
- **Imprisoned** Roman Emperor Titus Flavius 95AD after Temple destroyed
- **Patmos** Small/Rocky Island in Aegean Sea lit. **My killing**

Banished for the Word of God/The Testimony of Jesus Christ

- **Penned Book Revelation of Jesus Christ.** Apocalypse. Unveiling.
 1. **Father** gave to Jesus
 2. **Jesus** gave to His angel
 3. **His angel** gave to the Apostle John
 4. **Apostle John gives to us...**
- **Ch's 2-3 Letters to 7 Churches** written by **Jesus Himself**
 1. **7 Letters written** To Seven Churches John sees from Patmos
 2. **7 Letters intended** For every believer's personal application
 3. **7 Letters covering** **7 periods in church history over 2000 years**
- **At least 2/7** Churches exist today

Lukewarm Church of **Laodicea**/Faithful Church of **Philadelphia**

1. **Laodicea** Make-believers Left behind/Great Harlot WW False Religion
2. **Philadelphia** Believers Snatched out before Tribulation begins

2 Thessalonians 2:9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰ and **with all unrighteous deception** among those who perish, **because they did not receive the love of the truth**, that they might be saved.

Faithful in Days of Deception

Revelation 3:7 "And to the **angel** of the church in **Philadelphia** write..."

- **Angel:** gr. *ang'-el-os* a messenger, envoy, one sent, an angel, a messenger from God
- **Philadelphia:** Brotherly Love

The Faithful Church Loves the Brothers

1 John 2:10 He who **loves his brother abides in the light**, and there is no cause for stumbling in him.

1 John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death to life [How?] , **because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.**

1 John 4:20 If someone says, "**I love God,**" and **hates his brother, he is a liar**; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? **21** And this commandment we have from Him: that **he who loves God must love his brother also.**

- The Faithful Church loves the brothers. Flaws and all.

7b ... 'These things says **He who is holy, He who is true**

- **Jesus is Holy:** Set apart to the Father/Set apart from Sin
- **Jesus is True:** No deceit. No hypocrisy. No darkness

The Faithful Church desires to be like Jesus: **Holy and True**

1 Peter 1:15 ...as He who called you is holy, **you also be holy** in all your conduct...

Ephesians 5:8b ...**Walk as children of light** for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, **and truth...**

- The Faithful Church desires to be like Jesus: Holy and True

7c ... "**He who has the key of David...**

- King David held the key to the Kingdom of Israel
- **Jesus now has that Key and will use it when He returns...**

Zechariah 8:3 "Thus says the LORD: '**I will return to Zion**, And dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be called the **City of Truth**, The Mountain of the LORD of hosts, The Holy Mountain.'

The Faithful Church Embraces Prophecy
Jesus holds the key to the coming Millennial Kingdom

7d... He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens"...

The Faithful Church Trusts Jesus for the Next Steps in Ministry...

1 Corinthians 16:9 For a great and **effective door has opened to me**, and there are many adversaries. [Two years] Paul reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus in Ephesus]

8 "I know **your works**."

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

- **Good Works:** Reading/Believing/Obedying as led by Spirit who walks before us...

8b... See, I have set **before you an open door**, and no one can shut it

Why? Because Jesus opened it as we **moved forward in His will...**

8c... for you have a little strength

- **Strength:** *gr. doo'-nam-is* power/ability

Act 1:8 ...you shall receive power [*doo'-nam-is*] when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me...**to the end of the earth."**

- **I gave you a little supernatural strength** but you used what you had for Me

Matthew 25:29 ...to everyone who has, **more will be given, and he will have abundance**; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.

Isaiah 58:8 [Obey: Faith before feeling] Then your light shall break forth like the morning, Your healing shall spring forth speedily, And your righteousness shall go before you; The glory of **the Lord shall be your rear guard**.

- In what way did they use strength given?

8d... [you] have kept My word

James 1:22... be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but **he who does the will of My Father in heaven ...24** "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and **does them**, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock **...26** "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and **does not do them**, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand...

- **Kept the Word of God in World of Deceit**
 1. **Repudiated** Find fault for 3000 years and counting
 2. **Diluted**
 3. **Allegorized**
 4. **Disregarded**
 5. **Devalued and yet...**

**The Faithful Church Keeps the Word of God
Because we are sure it is the Word of God**

1 Thessalonians 2:13 ... we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the **word of God** which you heard from us, you **welcomed it not as the word of men**, but as it is **in truth**, the **word of God**, which also effectively works in you who believe.

Acts 17:11 [Bereans] ...received the word **with all readiness**, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether [the things they heard were true]

- Used little strength given **to keep the Word of God**
 1. **Guarded** Gift of God's Word
 2. **Contended** Earnestly for God's Word
 3. **Grounded** On the Solid Rock of God's Word
- The Faithful Church Keeps the Word of God

8e... and [you] **have not denied My name.**

Revelation 1:2 [John did not deny Jesus] ...who **bore witness to the word of God**, and to the **testimony of Jesus Christ**, to all things that he saw ...**9** I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called **Patmos** for the **word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.**

Romans 1:16 ...**I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ**, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes...

Acts 4:12 [Of Jesus] ... there is **no other name** under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Paraphrase: You have wisely used the little strength I gave to do things that are pleasing to Me; you have kept My Word and you have not denied My Name; because of this I will give you an open door for great opportunity even as you store up treasure in heaven. [NJC]

9 Indeed I will make those of the **synagogue of Satan**, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—indeed I will make them come and **worship before your feet**, and to **know that I have loved you.**

Revelation 2:9 [To Persecuted Smyrna] "I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the **blasphemy** of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a **synagogue of Satan.**

- **Synagogue of Satan**

Those that call themselves God's People but belong to Satan
IOWs Aberrant Christian Cults
- **Blasphemy of Cults**
 1. Denying the Deity of Christ
 2. Denying Eternality of Hell
 3. Denying Salvation by Grace alone
- **These troublemakers** will go into the Tribulation...

2 Thessalonians 1:6 ...it is a righteous thing with God to **repay with tribulation those who trouble you**, 7 and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels...

- **They will worship before your feet.** Not us but God

Romans 14:11 "As I live, says the Lord, **Every knee shall bow to Me**, And every tongue shall confess to God."

Philippians 2:10 ...at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that **every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father.

- **Know that I have loved you:** Vindication/Validation from God

Psalms 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me... **5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies...**

10 Because you have **kept My command to persevere**, I also will **keep you from the hour of trial** which shall **come upon the whole world**, to **test** those who dwell on the earth.

- **Kept My Command to Persevere:** Kept My Word/Spoke My Name

The Faithful Church is kept from the Tribulation
Laodicea and others...not so much

Revelation 2:22 [Corrupt Church Thyatira] Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into **great tribulation**, unless they repent of their deeds.

11 Behold, I am **coming quickly!**

- **Not necessarily soon:** When it happens it will happen quickly

11b... Hold fast what you have, that **no one may take your crown.**

Revelation 22:12 "...behold, **I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me**, to give to every one according to his work.

- **Implication:** We can lose reward by not holding fast

12 He who **overcomes**, I will make him a **pillar in the temple of My God**, and he shall **go out no more.**

- **How do we Hold Fast/Overcome?**

1 John 5:4 For **whatever is born of God overcomes the world**. And this is the victory that has **overcome the world—our faith.**

The Faithful Church Walks by Faith Not Sight
IOWs Reading/Believing/Obeying God's Word...letting feeling follow or not

- **Make us Pillars:** rt. To be established in the presence of others

- **In the Temple:** Not made of hands...

Revelation 21:22 ...I saw no temple in [the New Jerusalem], for the **Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.**

- **Of My God:** Jesus calls the Father God. **The Father calls Jesus God**

Hebrews 1:6 But when He [Father] again brings the firstborn [Jesus] into the world, He says: "**Let all the angels of God worship Him.**" ...**8** But to the Son He says: "**Your throne, O God, is forever and ever;** A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.

- **One God/Three Persons:** Father/Son/Holy Spirit.
- **Spirit submits to the Son.** Son submits to the Father. All equal
- **Pillar going out no more:** Always w/the Lord/never separated by sin/never lost

12b... I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.

- **I will write on the Faithful:** Acknowledge them as My own forever...
 1. **Name of My God:** YHWH. I AM that I AM. The becoming one
 2. **Name of the city of My God:** New Jerusalem
 3. **My New Name...**

Jeremiah 23:5 "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. 6 In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; **Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

YHWH Tsidkenu: The Lord our Righteousness

The Faithful Church Knows 100% of their Righteousness comes from God

- Name that means so much to true believers...

2 Corinthians 5:21 [God] made [Jesus] who knew no sin to be sin for us, that **we might become the righteousness of God** in Him.

13 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the **Spirit says to the churches.**"

Philadelphia Application: in spite of much opposition and with just a little strength, we have the ability by/through God's Holy Spirit to "**keep His Word**" and "**not deny His Name**" in our daily lives. As we obey, God opens doors to the "good works prepared beforehand for us to walk in..." The eternal rewards for faithfulness are tremendous; We will be "pillars" in God's Temple; pillars on which are inscribed the Name of the Father, a New Name for Jesus and the name of His Eternal City. Our fellowship with God, our citizenship in heaven and co-inheritance with Jesus are indescribable. [NJC]

- **2024 Faithful in Days of Deception**
 1. Love our brothers/sisters/See Jesus as Holy and True
 2. Look forward to His Kingdom/Walk through every door He opens
 3. Use whatever strength He gives us for His Kingdom
 4. **Keep His Word/Uphold His Name in 2024**