

Purity in a Faithful Church

MEMORY VERSE

*“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”
(Revelation 3:9).*

TEXT: Revelation 3:7-13

Jesus Christ the Head of the church sent John the beloved to write to the churches in Asia Minor (Revelation 1:19). Philadelphia was one of those churches. This church, though it had “a little strength” kept the word of God and did not deny His name. The church was pure, faithful, steadfast and overcame all Satan's devices. There was no rebuke or correction from Christ who sees everything in the church. Hence, He promised them great blessings (Revelation 3:12). Today, the challenge to be pure and faithful to Christ and His word is on Christian. We are called and expected to live a pure, righteous and faithful life before God.

Question 1: How can Christians be pure and faithful in this evil world before God?

With our strength, we cannot be pure and faithful. Jesus Christ came to pay the price on the cross so that we can be clean, righteous and faithful according to the standard of God. To be pure therefore: a person must

repent and confess their sins to God; the person must accept and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour; three, they must forsake their evil ways and actions. This is called salvation experience. After this experience, they must come to God again for sanctification by consecrating, surrendering and asking Him to purify their hearts by faith (Acts 15:9). In today's lesson, we shall see the character and life of the Master Jesus; the promises for the pure and the faithful; and the call to be steadfast to the end.

THE PERSONALITY OF JESUS, THE FAITHFUL

(Revelation 3:7; 19:11; Acts 3:12-15; 1 John 3:5; 1 Peter 2:21-25, 9; John 14:6; 1 John 5:20; Isaiah 22:22)

Jesus Christ is the Faithful One from eternity (Revelation 19:11). The letter to the church in Philadelphia was addressed to the minister called “the angel of the church”. This church was special and unique among the seven churches. They were faithful, righteous, holy, God-honoring, Christ-pleasing and obedient to the word of God.

“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” (Revelation 3:7). Jesus the Lord introduced Himself as He who is holy, true, who has the key of David, He who opens and no man shuts and He who shuts and no man opens. These attributes and characteristics are special, unique and fits His Majesty. Jesus Christ, the Beloved of the Father, is perfectly holy from eternity. Angels, men and evil spirits acknowledged this titles. He is sinless, blameless and holy (Hebrews 7:26). As Christians, we are called to be holy. “As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former

lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy” (1 Peter 1:14-16).

Question 2: How can a Christian maintain a consistent holy walk like Jesus?

“Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe” (1 Thessalonians 2:10). To maintain a consistent holy walk with God like Jesus our Shepherd, the Christian must be ready to read and obey His word, pray always, believe Him for daily grace, fear Him above all men (but should respect them), share the gospel with others, fellowship with other godly people, listen to the Holy Spirit directives, stand for the truth always, etc. His grace is sufficient for us. Another attribute of Jesus Christ in His introduction is Truth. He is Truth Personified. “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6). We too are called to be truthful and faithful. “These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful” (Revelation 17:14). He also introduced Himself as “he that hath the key of David”. In this, He fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah (Isaiah 22:22). This shows Christ's absolute authority and power over all things.

As Christians, we should not be afraid of people who think they can stop or hinder our progress because they do not have power or authority to shut the doors of opportunities from God, only Him has your destiny and life in His care. We should pray and trust Him for the best in our lives.

THE PROMISE OF JESUS TO THE FAITHFULS

(Revelation 3:8-10, 12; 1 Corinthians 1:9; 2 Corinthians 2:12)

The church in Philadelphia received great commendation and encouragement from the impartial Judge, Jesus Christ. There was no blame, correction or condemnation from the Master. He therefore gave them great promises, counsel and prophecies.

Question 3: What were the promises from Christ to the Philadelphia church?

The promise of Christ to the church include open door (Revelation 3:8); submission of the enemies to them (verse 9); His love for them (verse 9); glorious escape from great tribulation (verse 10); privilege of being pillars in His temple (verse 12); stability (verse 12); a new name (verse 12); and a crown (verse 11).

Question 4: What conditions did the church fulfill to enjoy these promises?

This church had a little strength, but the Lord found them faithful, pure and loyal to Him (Revelation 3:8). Hence, a little strength with divine power is greater and stronger than the strongest of men. The conditions they fulfilled to enjoy these promises were obedience to God and His word, and they did not deny His name despite trials and persecutions (verses 8-10). Today, though we are young, our faith in God and His word will grant us sufficient strength, grace and power to overcome all odds to live victoriously in this evil world. Therefore, we must persevere to live a holy, faithful life and be obedient to Him in all things (2 Corinthians 12:9).

THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE JUST AND THE FAITHFUL

(Revelation 3:11-13; 2:25-29; 22:7,12,20,21; 1 John 4:4; 5:4,5; Revelation 2:7,11,17,26 Revelation 3:5, 12,21; 21:7)

Christians who believe in Christ and are living a righteous life are called, chosen and faithful (Revelation 17:14). These faithful Christians are waiting for the return of their Lord. “Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown” (Revelation 3:11). The Lord always reminds His people about His return because He does not want anyone to be caught unaware. He wants everyone to be adequately prepared so that they will not partake in the suffering that will come upon the world. However, when He comes, He will reward Christians according to their labor, faithfulness, loyalty, love, commitment, sacrifice and consecration.

“Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I 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” (Revelation 3:12). Perseverance is the key to overcoming all oppositions to remain steadfast and faithful till He comes.

Question 5: What are those things Christians must overcome to remain God's children?

“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?” (1 John 5:4,5). As Christian, we will face tough times, persecutions and afflictions, but we must be prepared to endure hardship as good soldiers of Jesus Christ. Therefore, we must overcome sin, self, temptations, the world and Satan. This counsel from Christ, the Head of the church is for everyone. The Scripture says: “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches” (Revelation 3:13).