

To the Church in Philadelphia Pt. 4

August 23, 2018

Revelation 3:7-13 ESV

7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.

8 I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

9 Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie--behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you.

10 Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.

11 I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.

12 The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and 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 from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.

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

Revelation 3:9 ESV

9 Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie--behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you.

- *Our Father sees and hears all. He will make all things right. He will defend and fight for us. We need not, and should not, take revenge into our own hands. Surrender to God's justice.*

Acts 7:55-56 ESV

55 But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

56 And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

Proverbs 15:3 ESV

3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.

Proverbs 5:21 ESV

21 For a man's ways are before the eyes of the LORD, and he ponders all his paths.

Psalms 34:15 ESV

15 The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry.

Romans 12:19 ESV

19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

Romans 12:19 NASB

19 NEVER TAKE YOUR OWN REVENGE, beloved, but LEAVE ROOM FOR THE WRATH OF GOD, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord.

- **We cannot be trusted with our own form and version of revenge. The passions of hatred and vengeance are all-consuming and never satisfied. Only God's judgement is absolutely just.**

Hebrews 12:15 ESV

15 See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble (enochleō - to excite disturbance, the growth of a poisonous plant), and by it many become defiled (miainō - pollute, contaminate).

Revelation 3:10 ESV

10 **Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.**

Matthew 24:21-22 ESV

21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.

22 And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.

- *Between 50% - 75% of all living human beings will be killed by the midpoint (3.5 years) of the Tribulation.*

Waiting and Ready to be Delivered from the Wrath to Come

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 ESV

9 For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,

10 and to wait (anamenō - to wait with patience and trust) for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

Revelation 3:11 ESV

11 **I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.**

- *Our one guiding obsession of every hour must be to live in the reality of meeting Jesus face to face, imminently, either by rapture or by death.*

"It ought to be the business of every day, to prepare for our last day." —Matthew Henry

Colossians 3:2-4 ESV

2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

"As heaven and earth are contrary one to the other, both cannot be followed together; and affection to the one will weaken and abate affection to the other." —Matthew Henry, Commentary on Col 3:2

- **Then everything we think, say and do, whether good or evil, will be continually brought into the Light of His holy presence, that we might be ready to stand before our Judge.**
- **Being sinless or perfect is NOT what makes us ready to meet the Lord face to face.**
- **Being ready is having our entire heart and life surrendered and exposed to the Light of His Word and holiness.**

Self-examination in the Light of God's Word, Holiness and Judgment

John 3:20-21 NASB

20 "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed."

21 "But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

1 John 1:7-8 NASB

7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

- **The child of God brings all things to the Light, whether those things are good or evil.**
- **The child of God, in holy fear, seeks to please God in everything thought, said and done.**
- **The child of God, in holy fear, confesses all sins seeking the cleansing of the Blood.**
- **Bringing all things, good and bad, to the Light of God's Word, presence and holiness is what makes us ready to meet the Lord face to face.**

1 Corinthians 11:27-32 NASB

27 Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord.

28 But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

29 For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly.

30 For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep.

31 But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged.

32 But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world.

Always Ready Without Warning

Matthew 24:36-51 ESV

36 But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.

37 For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark,
39 and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.
40 Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left.
41 Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left.
42 Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.
43 But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.
44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.
45 Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time?
46 Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.
47 Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions.
48 But if that wicked servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed,'
49 and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards,
50 the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know
51 and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 ESV

13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.
14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.
15 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.
16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.
17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.
18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 ESV

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you.
2 For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.
3 While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.
4 But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief.
5 For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness.
6 So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.
7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night.
8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.
9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,
10 who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.
11 Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

Revelation 3:12-13 ESV