



Revelation 3:7-13

Part 2

The Faithful Church: Present and Future

Big Idea:

There is flawless eternal hope for the faithful church.

-- Last Week: Four Signs of the Faithful Church

- 1.) Pursuit of Holiness (v. 7a)
- 2.) Conviction of Truth (v. 7b)
- 3.) Exclusivity of the Gospel (v. 7c)
- 4.) **ENDURANCE** through Trials (v. 8, 10)

Four Promises for the Faithful Church

1.) Our salvation is **ASSURED** (v. 8).

- Jesus is promising the Philadelphian believers irrevocable access into the glory of His eternal kingdom.
- Jesus Christ alone holds the key of David, and nothing can close the door of salvation that He has opened unto the faithful church.

2.) God's love will be **VINDICATED** (v. 9).

- Jesus, in line with the New Testament, is radically redefining what it means to be **ISRAEL** (Isaiah 45:14).
- God's people under the new covenant are those connected to Christ by faith, whether they be ethnically Jewish or Gentile.
- Jesus is assuring those who cling to Him and His Gospel in the face of opposition that they will one day be vindicated.

- In that day, everyone will know the Lord we love is the Lord of love, and the love He has lavished upon us is better than life.
- We can endure suffering and oppression today because we will receive vindication in the end when it matters most.

3.) God's people will **PERSEVERE** (v. 10).

- This text is most likely *not* speaking of a pre-tribulational rapture.
- Such an interpretation does not seem commensurate with the grammar (John 17:15).
- It would be quite odd if a promise written to a specific congregation had no immediate relevance to that congregation.
- It is always better to under-promise and over-deliver than over-promise and under-deliver.
- By Christ's strength, every true believer will endure all things, overcome all evil, and be given eternal victory in Christ.

4.) Our hope will be **PERFECTED** (v. 12).

- Christ's ultimate promise to His faithful followers is the vision He gives us in verse 12.
- Just as a bride takes the name of her husband, so our union with Christ will be complete when His own name is written on His beloved bride.

Application

1.) **LOOK AHEAD**

- Jesus impresses upon us these realities about what is to come so that we might live with radically reoriented perspectives and priorities.
- We cannot live in the fullness of Christ until we learn how to focus on the future (Colossians 3:1-2, 2 Corinthians 4:18).

2.) PRESS ON

- God's first purpose for his people in every trial we face is that we would persevere in Christ (James 1:2-3).
- The commendation that our Lord accords to Philadelphia is directly related to the patient endurance they had displayed by the Spirit.
- Jesus has promised us a His new name in His new kingdom, and it is absolutely worth fighting for (James 1:12).