

Sermon Notes

Jesus Walks Among the Lampstands

“Philadelphia: Perseverance of the Persecuted – Part C”

Revelation 3:7-13

I. Introduction

A. Review of literary structure.

The Christ Title

The Commendation

The Complaint

The Correction

The Consequence

B. Today, continue with the commendation.

II. Exposition

A. Verse 10

1. Philadelphia is being persecuted for its faith.

a. Greek – literally “You have kept the word of my endurance.”

2. “I will also keep you from”

a. Dispensational view.

b. However, keep you from can also mean “protect from” – not an exemption from the hour of trial but protection within the h_____ o__ t_____.

1. Revelation 6:9-11; 11:10

c. Note John 17:15. Only other occurrence in the New Testament of this verb “keep” with the preposition “from.” “Keep them from the evil one.”

1. Jesus does not ask for removal from the world.

2. Jesus prays for underpinning during the trial.

d. “Hour of trial” – technical expression in Revelation. It is an indication that saints are not insulated from abuse. The reference refers to unbelievers who worship the beast and persecuted believers. (Rev. 6:10; 8:13; 11:10; 12:12; 13:8,12,14; 17:2,8)

B. The Complaint.

1. There is none.

2. Similar to Smyrna.

3. Note chiasmic structure.

C. The Correction.

1. “Hold on to what you have,” verse 11.

a. No complaint but a command to hold on to what you have.

They already have three things:

1. E_____ into the K____ of G_____

2. Future V_____ before their Jewish O_____

3. S_____ protection from the D_____

D. Consequences – Revelation 3:11-12.

1. So that no one will take your crown.

a. Not a royal diadem but an A_____ W_____.

b. Greek is *stephanos* not *diadema*.

1. II Timothy 2:5; II Peter 4:4; see also I Corinthians 9:25;
I Peter 5:4; I Thessalonians 2:19

c. Note connection to athletic games.

2. The importance of the Nike formula.

a. “He who overcomes,” verse 12.

1. Formula plus two things:

a. To become a pillar.

b. To be written upon.

2. Note significance of pillars in temple structures of the day.

3. Elsewhere in the New Testament – Gal. 2:9; I Tim 3:15.

b. “And he will not go out from it anywhere.”

1. Greek is in the most emphatic form.

2. Note common practice of living outside the city for fear of earthquakes.

III. Point for Reflection.

A. The Christian life is a persecuted life.

1. Rev. 2:10; Matt 10:22; II Tim 3:14; I Pet. 3:12

B. How do we suffer?

1. Physically

2. Financially

3. Socially