



Today's Message

Date: December 1, 2013
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: ***Kept From the Hour of Tribulation***

Text: 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.’

Introduction: Chapters two and three contain seven letters from Christ to *real* churches. The letters all follow a similar format. Christ evaluates each church, identifying its strengths and weaknesses. Next he offers counsel to help the church persevere. He concludes each with a promise. Churches in every generation exhibit the characteristics of the recipients of these letters and thus need Christ's counsel.

Today's take-home truth: Those who persevere love Christ's word—and Christ will bring them home!

I. Description of the Author: The glorified Christ is the *real* Messiah. 7

- A. He is the divine chosen one . . .
- B. who wields all authority.

II. Evaluation of the church: Christ values the church's faithfulness, not its "success." 8-10

- A. Christ commended the church because, in spite of weakness,
 - 1. They had faithfully obeyed his word . . .
 - 2. and owned his name.
- B. So Christ gave encouragement for continued faithfulness.
 - 1. Christ determines the destiny of his people.
 - 2. Christ will vindicate his people before their opponents.
 - 3. Christ will preserve his people from great tribulation.

III. Counsel to the church: In view of Christ's imminent coming, persevere. 11

IV. Promise to the church: Christ will give the one who perseveres a permanent home. 12-13

- A. The one who perseveres will have an eternal place in the Kingdom of God. 12a
- B. The one who perseveres will have an eternal relationship with the God of the Kingdom. 12b