

**“Bearing the Name”** (Revelation 3:7–13)(11.14.21)

Revelation 3:7–13 (NIV84) *To the Church in Philadelphia*

<sup>7</sup>“To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.<sup>8</sup> I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.<sup>9</sup> I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you.<sup>10</sup> Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.

<sup>11</sup> I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.<sup>12</sup> Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also

write on him my new name.<sup>13</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

## **The word of God for the people of God.**

LET US PRAY.

Title: **"Bearing the Name"**

INTRODUCTION:

This past week, I received a bill from a lawyer. It was for \$450 dollars after a \$25 discount. I don't know what the discount was for. Anyway, I was happy with the lawyer's expertise and efficiency; but our meeting was for about ½ hour. Yes there was some preparation required and a follow-up question answered. Altogether though, it was probably less than an hour of his time. I understand that with professionals you are paying for their education, experience, and expertise.

Still, I had a little resentment. I began to make a comparison with myself: my education, experience, and expertise. For an hour's work, the lawyer makes 75% of what I make in a whole week. As my pity party unfolded, I was thinking, "Yeah, and the lawyer only deals with temporal matters, earthly matters. I deal with the more important eternal matters, heavenly matters."

Then the arrow of conviction hit my heart – yes, and your treasure is in heaven.

The lesson of course is having a heavenly perspective versus an earthly perspective. What is actually important? The things of God should take preeminence in our lives. When the Lord Jesus holds first place in our lives, then other priorities fall into their proper place. Yes, there will be serious challenges in this life, but let us claim the promises that Jesus lays out for us. **The final goal frames our daily walk.** We are to be image bearers of our Creator. We are to bear the name of God; the name of New Jerusalem; and, the name of our Savior.

BODY:

Of the seven messages to the churches of Revelation, this is the most positive. There is no rebuke by Jesus for the Church of Philadelphia – the Church of brotherly love. There is encouragement and exhortation from the Lord Jesus. Although He acknowledges their present challenges, He focuses their attention on Him and the blessings to come in the future.

- Jesus is God
  - a. He is Holy – holiness belongs to God

i. Isaiah 6:3 (NIV84)

And they were calling to one another:  
"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty;  
the whole earth is full of his glory."

ii. Revelation 4:8 (NIV84)

Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying:  
"Holy, holy, holy  
is the Lord God Almighty,  
who was, and is, and is to come."

iii. Peter, speaking about Jesus in 1 Peter 1:15 (NIV84) says But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;

iv. He does the same thing in Acts 3:14. He calls Jesus the "holy and righteous one."

b. He is True

i. John 14:6 (NIV84) Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

ii. Revelation 19:11 (NIV84) I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war.

iii. Revelation 15:3 (NIV84)

“Great and marvelous are your deeds,

Lord God Almighty.

Just and true are your ways,

King of the ages.

- The Key of David

- a. Authority - absolute

- b. The Davidic Kingdom: In Isaiah 22, God restores a righteous king over Judah. God proclaims that I will place on his shoulder the key to the house of David; what he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. This king was a type of Jesus Christ, a foreshadowing. Jesus came from the line of King David. This key was a sign of Messianic kingdom authority.

- c. The key to earthly blessing. When the King of Judah was given the key of David, it opened the treasure room.

- d. The key to Hades: Revelation 1:18 (NIV84) I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

e. Conversely – Jesus holds The key to Heaven and life

- What He Opens:

- a. Hearts

- b. Opportunities (NT – common reference to ministry)

- c. I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. Philadelphia was on the Imperial Post Road, a gateway to the East.

- What He Shuts

- I know your deeds. (do you ever wonder?)

- I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. This message to the Church of Philadelphia should be an encouragement to us.

- a. Small

- b. Obedience

- c. Not denied my name

- i. Courage (encouragement)

- ii. The way they lived did not bring disgrace to Jesus

- Enemies will be overcome
  - a. The house of Satan: From The Message  
paraphrase: "And watch as I take those who call themselves true believers but are nothing of the kind, pretenders whose true membership is in the club of Satan—watch as I strip off their pretensions and they're forced to acknowledge it's you that I've loved."
- Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth. Faith grows and matures when it is exercised.
  - a. Obedience under duress
  - b. Protection
    - i. Psalm 91
    - ii. Tribulation
- I am coming soon (I will address this in the conclusion)
- Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.
  - a. Hold on – have you ever been in a tug-of-war? The most important person on the team is the

anchor – the one at the end of the rope that digs in and supports the efforts of the rest of the team.

b. Your Crown: Alexander Maclaren explains: "The crown is spoken about under three designations – as a crown of "life," of "righteousness," of "glory." The crown is the reward of righteousness, and consists of life so full that our present experience contrasted with it may almost be called an experience of death; of glory so flashing and wonderful that, if our natures were not strengthened, it would be an "exceeding weight of glory" that would crush them down, and upon all the life and all the glory is stamped the solemn signature of eternity, and they are for ever.

"Thy crown" will fit no temples but thine. It is part of thy perfected self, and certain to be thine, if thou hold fast the beginning of thy confidence firm unto the end."

c. Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God.

i. Overcome (requires obstacles)

ii. Philadelphia was on a fault line and frequent earthquakes. Jesus is the great architect building a kingdom that cannot be shaken.



1. Pillar in the temple (All of New Jerusalem is the Temple)

2. John 14:1-3 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

3. I did not write or pick today's Offertory Prayer. Do you remember how it started? Mighty God, Architect of the Universe; your work of creation and building is always before us!

4. But while we wait for our heavenly reward: 1 Peter 2:4–12 (NIV84)<sup>4</sup> As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him—<sup>5</sup> you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

- We will be bear the name of our heavenly reality as sons and daughters of God where we have our citizenship.
  - a. What marks do we wear now? People wear all kinds of logos that identify themselves.
  - b. Name of God the Father
  - c. Name of New Jerusalem
  - d. Jesus' new name: Only Jesus knows this name (Rev 19:12).

D.L. Moody Devotional from yesterday: Acts 4:12 (NIV84) Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

IF there is one word above another that will swing open the eternal gates, it is the name of Jesus. There are a great many passwords and bywords down here, but that will be the countersign up above. Jesus Christ is the "Open Sesame" to heaven. Any one who tries to climb up some other way, is a thief and a robber. And when we get in, what a joy above every other joy we can think of, will it be to see Jesus Himself, and to be with Him continually!

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

## CONCLUSION:

Revelation 22:6–20 (NIV84) 3:11 (I am coming soon.)

<sup>6</sup>The angel said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place.”

<sup>7</sup>“Behold, **I am coming soon!** Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book.”

<sup>8</sup>I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me.<sup>9</sup> But he said to me, “Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers the prophets and of all who keep the words of this book. Worship God!”

<sup>10</sup>Then he told me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, because the time is near.<sup>11</sup> Let him who does wrong continue to do wrong; let him who is vile continue to be vile; let him who does right continue to do right; and let him who is holy continue to be holy.”

<sup>12</sup>“Behold, **I am coming soon!** My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what

he has done.<sup>13</sup> I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

<sup>14</sup>“Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.<sup>15</sup> Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

<sup>16</sup>“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.”

<sup>17</sup>The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.

<sup>18</sup>I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book.<sup>19</sup> And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

<sup>20</sup>He who testifies to these things says, **“Yes, I am coming soon.”**

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Do you wrestle with that promise? I confess that I do long for that day. For two thousand years, Christians have read this closing promise of the Holy Scriptures. Why has Jesus left us with such a great but yet unfulfilled promise? First, the Lord does not desire that any should perish but rather come to a saving faith. Maybe second is to give us the same open door He gave that faithful little church of Philadelphia. Until His promised coming, remember **The NAME** that you bear.

Amen and amen. Let us pray.