

THE SUPREMACY OF JESUS: WHAT HE LOVES AND REWARDS

Houses of Light Church • January 15-16, 2022 • Pastor Netz Gómez

Rev. 3:7-8

"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. 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."

I. WHAT JESUS VALUES

- A. As we continue to study Jesus' letters to the church we can see not only the glorious characteristics of Jesus but also what He considers valuable..
1. **LOVE HIM:** Staying in the first love (2:4) is keeping the passion we had at the beginning and doing what we used to do.
 2. **BE FIRM:**
 - a. **Hold a pure doctrine (2:15)** Hating the lukewarm teaching of the Nicolaitans (2:6; 3:15-16)
 - b. **Do not tolerate false and corrupt teaching (2:20)** like that of Jezebel who seduces the servants of God to fornicate and eat those sacrificed to idols.
 3. **BE FAITHFUL:**
 - a. **Retain what you have (2:25)** Keep what has been received and heard (3:3) Keep His works until the end (2:26) Keep His Word (3:8) Keep the Word of His patience (3:10).
 - b. **Be faithful until death (2:10)** Do not deny faith (2:13) Do not deny His name (3:8)
- B. ***"I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word"*** Jesus' desire is that we keep His Word. It is something that can be noticed through the different cards. Sardis 3:3 told him ***"Remember therefore what you have received and heard; and keep it"*** and Thyatira 2:25 ***"but what you have, hold fast until I come."*** All excuses and attacks to let go of what you have received from Jesus must be rejected. There is pressure to give up and not uphold the values of His Word.
- C. ***"and have not denied my name."*** Also His emphasis on faithfulness is something He repeats to Smyrna 2:10 ***"Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life."*** and Pergamum 2:13 ***"you have not denied my faith."*** There is pressure not to be faithful to Jesus and to take other options or paths that are easier or more popular.
- D. ***"I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut"*** The reason why God had granted them that open door was their obedience and faithfulness to the testimony of Jesus despite being a small church and despite the pressure of the Jews. Jesus has the power to open and close all kinds of doors.

Col. 4:3 *"And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ..."*

- E. *"I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name."* Having little strength (or little power or spiritual influence) is not an excuse to be unfaithful or disobedient or fickle under pressure; On the contrary, it is something that leads us to depend on the power of God..

II. WARNINGS OF JESUS

- A. *"I am coming soon"* (Rev. 1:1, 7; 2:16; 22:7, 12, 20) Jesus is coming soon in the sense of the imminence of His second coming, but He also comes to specific regions and people with revival or also when we have to leave this world to be with Him. **This closeness of the coming of the Lord to reward the faithful provides an effective reason to be tenacious until the end.**
- B. *"Hold on to what you have"* Although Jesus acknowledges that they have kept His word He still exhorts them to hold fast, he wants the pressure on them to continue. **We must cling to the same measure of obedience that we walk in when we are closest to God's heart and most radical in our responses to Him.**
- C. *"so that no one will take your crown"* Jesus warned them not to let anyone influence them to embrace lies about Him, a lifestyle that resists His leadership. **A believer may lose the rewards that he/she might have received in the age to come if he allows himself to be deceived into giving himself up to the Lord.**

2 Jn. 8 "Watch out that you do not lose what you have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully."

C. THE REWARDS OF JESUS

1. *"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..."* As in Smyrna, believers in Philadelphia were experiencing tensions with the local synagogue which Jesus calls **"the synagogue of Satan"** (2:9) from which members of this church had been expelled because they said they were not true followers of God **but Jesus tells them that He is going to change that history of hostility towards them.**
2. *"and acknowledge that I have loved you"* When Jesus intends to honor and vindicate someone, he is able to make the wicked prostrate, acknowledging that He has loved us.
 - a. **This is the kind of honor and vindication that Jesus as Sovereign grants to the faithful.** In fact this is a promise that God made to Israel but that is also fulfilled in the faithful of the New Testament.

Is. 60:14 "The children of your oppressors will come bowing before you; all who despise you will bow down at your feet and will call you the City of the Lord, Zion of the Holy One of Israel."

2. ***"Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth."***

- a. Keeping them from the hour of trial has been taken as a text to argue that we will not be on earth during the 'Great Tribulation' **but what this text says is that it will keep or protect them during that time.** (Rev. 7:9-17). Jesus promises to keep his people spiritually vibrant and protected from sin as well as God's judgment in the end times.
- b. In **Jn 17:15**, Jesus did not pray for believers to be removed from the scene, but rather that they be "kept" or preserved in victory in the midst of trouble by being enabled to stand firm against Satan's attack.

3. ***"he one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it.*** We are called to overcome what wants to steal our perseverance and the reward is to be a column in the Father's temple which one of the most glorious positions that can ever exist, refers to something much more glorious than we can imagine. Placing the overcomers in a position of honor in the temple of God in the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:22) on a permanent basis.

Gal. 2:9a *"James, Cephas[c] and John, those esteemed as pillars..."*

- a. **Those who did not give up will occupy firmly established positions of strength and power, when they rule and reign as joint heirs with Christ in the millennial kingdom.** The columns of antiquity often bore honorary inscriptions, and the same might be expected of eschatological columns, that is, we.

4. ***"I will write on them 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 them my new name."***

- a. **This is equivalent to having the identity of God and even of the New Jerusalem as our indelible mark. The overcomers and the faithful who have honored the Lord on earth, He will recognize in heaven.** Putting your name on something indicates that it belongs to you and that what the Lord will do with His own from it.
- b. The Scripture does not reveal the **"new name"** of Jesus but perhaps it is a symbol of his character, which only the overcomers will be able to appreciate when they see Jesus, which speaks of the level of intimate communion they will have with Him.

Is. 56:5 *"to them I will give within my temple and its walls a memorial and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that will endure forever."*

D. HOW DOES JESUS PRESENT HIMSELF

- A. ***"Holy and True":*** Jesus, as a man, is holy as fully set apart for God. **Totally reliable; there is nothing dirty or fake about Him.** He understands what it means to get out of costly commitments (**Heb. 4:15**). **He is worth what it costs to love and obey Him.**

Ap. 6:10 *“They called out in a loud voice, “How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?”*

- B. **“the key of David”**: This term is used in **Isa. 22:22** to describe the one who has the authority to give access to the palace and its treasures. It refers to the authority that God promised David (**2 Sam. 7:4-16**) to the point that when He opens no one can close and when He closes no one can open. **His authority is total over the gates of opportunity, revelation, and rewards.**

V. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Which of the things that Jesus values needs to emphasize more in your life?
2. How do rewards encourage you to never give up?
3. How does Jesus' descriptions reassure you for this time?

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOUSES OF LIGHT SCHOOLS RESTART CLASSES MONDAY, JANUARY 24 7:00 P.M. • REGISTER TODAY AT THE ENTRANCE OR ONLINE. [www. housesoflight.org](http://www.housesoflight.org)

GROWTH SCHOOLS FOR EVERYONE

- **AFFIRMING YOUR STEPS (online)**: 13 Basic education classes for new members with advisors and support groups.
- **DISCIPLESHIP SCHOOL (online)**: You need to belong to a Friendship Group and have completed Affirming Your Steps

Level 1: Biblical Foundations and Marriage

Level 2: Biblical Foundations II and Family

Level 3: Sermon on the Mount • Intimacy with God and the Holy Spirit

◆ADVANCED SCHOOLS

- **INTRODUCTION TO THE HOUSE OF PRAYER**: 10 face-to-face and online classes with advisors and practical experience in the Prayer Room.
- **TRANSITIONAL LEADERSHIP**: 10 face-to-face classes on how to grow as a leader in a Culture of prayer with Reflection Groups.
- **PARENTING SCHOOL**: 13 Online classes on Wednesdays for parents of young children or teenagers.
- **HOUSE OF RESTORATION**: 1-year online program to overcome character problems and addictions; Thursday and Friday 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY OPEN HOUSE: All parents are invited to see what our children are learning. Saturday, January 22 9:00 a.m.

CLOTHING DONATIONS: We are going to send clothes to immigrants who are suffering from the cold on the Tijuana border. Please bring clothes in good condition and classified.