

# Looking Forward

Revelation 3:8-13

## Sermon Outline

### A. No Matter What (vs. 8-9):

1. Know – Christ comprehensively has a divine understanding of all the deeds of the Philadelphia believers.
2. Deeds – Christ has a full knowledge of cumulative labor of faith that was accomplished by the believers in the church of Philadelphia.
3. Deeds – Christ purpose of gathering for having a full knowledge of the church of Philadelphia was to completely understand all the work they were doing because of their commitment to His Word. This is quite different than the very next church John is taking about – Laodicea.
4. Behold – This work which gained Christ full attention caused Christ to take action for this church.
5. Put before you - Christ completely establishes as a permanent possession a door that cannot be shut. This is not because they earned it. Christ chose to give them this as a gift because He rewards faithfulness (Hebrews 11:6).
6. Which on one can shut – Christ says that once and for all that once He opens the door, no one has the ability to overpower Him so it will remain open by His power and authority.
7. You have little power – Without Christ this church continuously as little capability to overcome or resist the obstacles or attacks presented to them by the Jews who gather in the synagogue of Satan.
8. You have kept My Word – This church has actively, once and for all determine to watchfully, with no intent of ever adjusting their convictions, completely surrender to the full intent of the Word of God.
9. You have not denied My name – This church did not disregard the character, power, authority or reputation of the Lord.
10. Behold – The character of this church gained Christ full attention causing Christ to take action in their favor.
11. I will cause – Christ continuously make as a permanent experience for these believers the Jews bowing before them. This is not because they earned it. Christ chose to give them this as a gift because He rewards faithfulness (Hebrews 11:6).
12. Who say – The Jews who attended the synagogue would constantly say they are Jews when they are not because they reject the Messianic nature of Christ.
13. I will make them – Christ will make the Jews, independent of their own desires, to bow down to the Philadelphia believers.

14. Worship –worthship – The same Jews who reject this church, because of their belief in Christ, will one day bow before them like Joseph’s brothers did before Joseph.
15. And make them know – Christ is going to cause them to come to a full intellectual understanding of who these Philadelphia believers are.
16. Love – Christ, on that day, will actively affirm His readiness to willingly provide self-sacrificial affection and compassion towards the Philadelphia believers.

## **B. Staying the Course (vs. 10-11):**

1. Kept the Word – This church has actively, once and for all determine to watchfully, with no intent of every adjusting their convictions, completely surrender to the full intent of the Word of God.
2. Of My perseverance – “It is unswerving constancy to faith and piety in spite of adversity and suffering.” Like a runner who is well trained for the Olympics but get injured while running but is so determined to finish he/she keeps running, despite the pain, to finish the race.
3. Of My perseverance – These believers possess character traits that demonstrate no desire to buckle when trials become overbearing as a result of their commitment to obey God’s Word.
4. Of My perseverance – These believers were steadfastly determined to obey God’s Word no matter what difficulty they encountered.
5. Keep you from the hour of testing – Because these believers were committed to obey God, no matter the adversity they experienced, Christ says He will intently keep a watchful eye upon them to preserve them from succumbing to sin.
6. Keep you from the hour of testing – Christ, knowing their desire to obey Him, will not allow them to breakdown under the pressure placed upon them to sin.
7. To test those who dwell — Unlike these believers those who continually inhabit the earth when they are solicited to sin will intentionally disobey God.
8. I am coming quickly – Christ is continuously strategically preparing to come in a cloud and rapture believers like those represented by the church of Philadelphia.
9. To hold fast what you have – Christ tells them to continuously cling to the intentional watchful attitude they have towards His Word.
10. To hold fast what you have – Christ instructs them to cling to the Word because this is what keeps them strong, allows them to prevail through the circumstances they were experiencing.
11. No one will take – When they hold fast to the Word of God, they gain an unchanging deposit that is self-prompted by God.
12. No one will take – God rewards them for their faith and trust in Him by, on His own initiative, providing them a crown that He creates and provides to them.
13. Crown – The Crown is a reward for those who prove victorious through trials.

a) We must not allow anyone to take our crown (this is why we must fight the fight of faith, 1 Timothy 6:12; These crowns are incorruptible crown (1 Cor. 9:25).

- Crown of Glory (1 Peter 5:4).
- Crown of Life (James 1:12).
- Crown of Righteousness (2 Tim. 4:8; Rev. 2:10).

14. Crown – Those believers who remained steadfast through adversity and persecution receives a victorious prize; the best of the best Christ provides to those who remain faithful in the midst of trials.

## C. Through it All (vs. 12-13):

1. He who overcomes – An overcomer is a believer who continuously demonstrates spiritual superiority over life obstacles (1 John 4:4).
2. He who overcomes – An overcomer is a believer who in the midst of adversity remains obedient to the Word of God, by the strength of the Holy Spirit, demonstrating genuine superiority over persecution and overwhelming circumstances (Romans 8:31-39).
3. Make him; Do practice – God, on His own initiative, asserts the establishment of these believers as pillars (places of remembrance) in the new temple in the New Jerusalem. The people who had little influence now has a significant place in God's house. These pillars remain forever.
4. Temple – God creates a remembrance for these believers in the very heart and center of where all of God's people will worship Him in the New Jerusalem, His holy place, His temple He possesses.
5. He will not go out from there anymore – Christ will not ever depart from His temple ever again. He takes His lampstand from some of the churches in Revelation but in the temple in the New Jerusalem He remains forever.
6. Write – The believer who overcomes Christ engraves, carves out, the name of God so that it is indisputably legally assigned to them.
7. The name of my God – Engraved on each of these overcoming believers are the attributes, reputation and power of God. He did not say the names of 'My God,' He said the name as if Christ is going to describe the nature of God on each of these believers glorified bodies.
8. The New Jerusalem comes down out of heaven – The New Jerusalem is either the entire city coming out from heaven or all that the blueprints outlines in heaven that is replicated on earth. It comes from God.
9. My new name – Christ reputation, power, authority, glorious and majestic nature will take on an entirely new manifestation before us.
10. He who has ears – Having ears here represents a person who continually makes it a habit to cling to what the Spirit of God is saying.
11. Let him hear – The believer who intently listens to the Holy Spirit is now commanded to comprehend what He is saying with a heart to obey.
12. What the Spirit – The Holy Spirit is the person who communicates what God wants to say to us (John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 3:10-15). He does this by

- illuminating the written Word and reminding us of what it says (John 14:26).
13. Says – The Holy Spirit communicates with us all the time so that He can empower us to be overcomers through the Word of God (Isaiah 55:11; 1 John 2:26-27).
  14. Church – The Holy Spirit speaks to those called out believer who assemble as brethren (loving community committed to the Word of God), freed citizens of the kingdom of God.