

Hold Fast what Thou Hast!

#3121 0317 24P Revelation 3:1-13

wds1779

[1 John 2:28 *abide in Him & not be ashamed*; Hebrews 2:1 give earnest heed; Revelation 20:12 judged according to our attitudes; Luke 10:20 rejoice because our name is written in heaven; Luke 12:8 confesses name of Jesus before men; Matthew 5:16 *Let your light so shine*; 2 Corinthians 2:12 saved if you hold fast God's truth; 2 Peter 2:9 *God knows how to deliver*]

AV Revelation 3:1 *“And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.*

2 *Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.*”

Jesus saying, “I know” warns us to wake up spiritually; be watchful and alert to deception. It is an on-going need to be spiritually nourished by reading the Bible every day. It is a call to hold fast to the Word and quote it when tempted by the devil.

The church at Sardis appeared to be spiritually alive but they were *not* on the *inside* what they seemed to be on the *outside*.

Religious-looking does not always mean spiritually-acting. He says NIV Revelation 3:2 *“I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God.”*

We are to always speak the Truth in love; accept it by faith and put it into practice with a new infilling of the Spirit to strength our spiritual walk.

We must *re-evaluate* our priorities; *adjust* our attitudes; make *corrections*; and *confess any sins* before God.

AV Revelation 3:3 *“Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.”*

A thief gives no notice—they just show up suddenly and unexpectedly. If we have repented and are sincere in our walk with the Lord, we will be ready, waiting, and *glad* to greet Jesus at any moment. We would not fear nor dread His return.

NKJV 1 John 2:28 *“Little children, abide [continue NIV] in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.”*

If we have any *issues* to deal with, any *attitudes* that are not right, and we are *slothful* in correcting them, we would *not* be *confident* at His coming, but would WEY 1 John 2:28 *“shrink away in shame from His presence at His Coming.”*

AV Hebrews 2:1 *“Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.”*

We are to constantly strengthen our stand of faith in God, because Satan wants us to let our trust on God slip away—which *can* happen if we start tolerating some *sin* in our life; putting up with *wrong attitudes* in our heart; possessing *unscriptural reading material*, or keeping some *unscriptural videos* on our phone.

There are many things that would cause us to *shrink back* in *shame* at the Lord's return.

AV Revelation 3:4-5 *“Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.”*

5 *He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.”*

Everyone will stand before God at some point. Revelation 20:12 AV *“The dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.”*

Just *looking religious* is not a true Christian life, but actually *being right* before God by a steadfast faith in the atoning sacrifice of His Son—is the *true* Christian life.

We must always be open to anything God reveals to us as being outside of His will, and then be inspired by His Holy Spirit to correct that issue.

AV Revelation 3:6 *“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”*

Many people have names written in a church register, but the only thing that counts is whether our name is written in a book in *Heaven*.

No matter what else we achieve during our time on earth, the only issue of importance is—if our name is written in a Book *that* determines our *destiny*!

The disciples were joyful when they cast out demons by the power of God; but Jesus said AV Luke 10:20 *“In this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.”*

If we are sincerely trusting God in faith, we would not fear judgment. Our name will not be blotted out of the book.

Jesus says NKJV Luke 12:8 *“Whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God.”*

It is our choice to *believe* or *not* believe—to *trust* God or trust something *else*—to be a witness for the *Lord* or a witness for the *world*.

AV Matthew 5:16 *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”*

AV Revelation 3:7 “*And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;*”

8 *I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.*”

An open door is an opportunity for us to show a scriptural example; to treat a person in a kindly manner; and to always have a forgiving heart.

We should pray that God will enable us to shine the light of His truth by our words, our attitudes, and the way we treat others.

We can be preoccupied with things that have little spiritual value, so we should pray that God enable us to hold fast to His Truth—to always show a personal example of *living* that Truth—that is vitally important today.

We are living at a critical time in history—the world is getting darker spiritually by the minute—we need to take inventory of *our attitudes* and *our conduct* in general—are they *helping* someone along life’s journey—is the question.

When these letters were written, the Romans had established peace and the official Greek language. Roman roads enabled the flow of commerce, communication, and advancement of the Gospel.

The location of Philadelphia in western Turkey enabled believers in that city to reach many people. Philadelphia was in a position to have a spiritual impact for the Lord. Revelation 3:8 “*I have set before thee an open door.*”

These are the world’s last days, and modern technology can be used to share God’s Truth that could not be accomplished previously. We must use *devices* for right *purposes*.

AV Revelation 3:9 “*Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.*”

Any modern city today could be called a *synagogue of Satan*—with rampant crime, total rejection of Jesus; no interest in God’s way of life, and no desire to read the Bible.

Literally billions of people are controlled by the devil—and they don’t know it.

There are many false religious messages spoken today—the apostle said NKJV 1 Corinthians 15:1 “*Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand,*

2 *by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.*”

AV Revelation 3:10 “*Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.*

11 *Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.*”

The hour of temptation could be the last half of the Tribulation—a global event of trial and tribulation on earth as God pours out His wrath on an unbelieving and wicked world.

If we persevere and hold fast to His Word of Truth, Jesus promises to keep us from the *hour of trial*.

God spared Noah and his family, and He rescued Lot from Sodom and Gomorrah. God’s *wrath* did not rain down on those evil cities until Lot and his family were *out of the way* Genesis 19.

NKJV 2 Peter 2:9 “*The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment.*”

AV Revelation 3:12 “*Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.*”

God is speaking to us from Revelation. He warns us to *read* and *heed* the Words in this last Book.

He tells us to *repent* and *re-commit* our life to Him anew every day; and being sure we have a *forgiving* heart and *divine love* for others—treating and greeting everyone as we would want *them* to treat *us*.

Hold Fast what Thou Hast, so no one will *deceive* you or *influence* you away of God’s Truth.

We must be sure we are placing our trust on the atoning sacrifice of Jesus every day for every issue we face.

Jesus keeps telling us: AV Revelation 3:13 “*He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.*”

Listening; keeping; and doing what Jesus says—it is the *only* way we will enter the eternal city He is preparing for us!



www.fcgchurch.org

*Receive free Tracts email:
fcgchurch1@gmail.com

Or write to: PO Box 24283
Philadelphia, PA 19120

#3121 0317 24P