

Seeking My King & His Kingdom  
#27 Church of Philadelphia 1730-~1940 AD

Philadelphia [Brotherly Love; Faithful; Church of the Open Door or Missionary Movement] had so many pagan temples and shrines, people called it "Little Athens."

In ancient Philadelphia the pagans worshiped Asklepios, the serpent god, and Dionysus, the vile Greek god of revelry and licentious orgies.

It was originally founded as a missionary outpost for Hellenism, the culture of ancient Greece.

Hocking: "The original purpose behind this key city was to make it a center for spreading Greek language, culture and manners throughout the Asian provinces."

Rev. 3:7-8 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: I know thy works: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

A. I Have Opened Doors For You And No Man Can Shut Them.

The Commission Matt. 28:18-20 Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.<sup>19</sup> Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. When Christ unlocks the doors of nations, the "Philadelphia church" has been faithful to walk through those doors and preach the gospel of redemption to lost souls.

Recall when the Soviet Union fell in 1991. All doors to those former Communist nations opened wide to the gospel of Christ. "Philadelphia missionaries" from almost every denomination and independent missionary societies faithfully rushed through those doors.

B. You Have A Little Strength

During the Sardis church period the Word of God had died and with that death many preachers and laymen joined secret societies and renounced Christ's name. This left the church weakened, with little strength. "Little strength" in Greek means "a small number were given miraculous power." Christ empowered them and opened the door to local communities and local churches for revival before missionary activity could begin. In Greek the word "openeth" means "to first open locally, severally and repetitiously." History reveals the first half of the Philadelphia church period was characterized by great revivals that swept both England and the Americas in the 18th and 19th centuries. The evangelical and missionary thrust began to grow in 1730 as a result of the revivals in both England and America. Numerous missionary movements sprang up which spread the gospel of Christ around the globe during the next 2 centuries.

1. In England, it began with the Wesley brothers. In 1730, John and Charles were sent by the British Society for the propagation of the Gospel to the colony of Georgia in the Americas.

2. John later returned to England and was an associate of George Whitefield.

3. John Wesley was known for his persistent, laborious love for men's souls.

For the next 50 years he rose at four o'clock every morning and began preaching at five o'clock. He preached twice a day and sometimes 3-4 times.

4. Most of his travel was on horseback accumulating 4,500 miles annually.
5. Wesley preached the renewing of the soul through belief in Jesus Christ.
6. As a result, tens of thousands responded to the gospel message.
7. When John Wesley died in 1791 at the age of 88, his preaching had brought sinners to repentance throughout the reign of three British Monarchs. England was now prepared to send missionaries around the world through foreign mission boards founded by Wesley.

#### Revivals In America - Those willing to walk through the "open door"

1. 1740-1750 - George Whitefield's preaching tours in America helped kindle the Great Awakening.
2. Jonathan Edwards became one of the most influential theologians and evangelists in American history. One of his best known sermons was "Sinners in the hands of an angry God." His preaching was an important factor in the Great Awakening in New England.
3. These revivals were so powerful that by the time our Constitution was written and passed by Congress in 1787, 2/3 of the three million citizens in the USA were professing Christians.
4. Revival fires were passed to the second generation. Francis Asbury, Peter Cartwright, Timothy Dwight and Lyman Beecher led the way to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Great Awakening. In 1824, Charles G. Finney inherited the leadership bringing great revival to the Eastern United States. His meetings were characterized by deep and open mourning over sin. During the latter half of the 19th century, Dwight L. Moody held great crusades throughout America and England. He was the forerunner to Billy Sunday and Billy Graham of the 20th century.
5. The entire 19th and 20th centuries became one great big missionary movement. The Philadelphia church was like a person coming back to life who was still weak.
6. We see Christ's awesome power and faithfulness in sustaining the obedient missionaries who with little strength, with little financing, with little preparation rushed through the open door to do a mighty work in a hostile land. It was indeed a miracle!

C. You have kept My Word in Greek = "they guarded the divine expression from loss"

D. You have not denied My Name.

The few who did not apostatize during the Sardis church period preserved God's Word and opened the Philadelphia church period with great revivals which led to a World-wide Missionary Movement. God orchestrated two historic events which permitted this to happen.

The result opened the doors of Eastern and Western countries to the gospel.

1. Great Britain spread her empire around the world through colonization.
2. This colonization was made possible by Britain's merchant marines. From 1603-1873, the British East India Company, the world's largest merchant marine co-op, was the sole responsible entity that carried the British flag around the world.
  - a. In 1873 when the British East India Company went out of business, the USA became the center of world travel and from our land the missionary movement continued to mushroom.

#### World-Wide Missionary Movement

1. Several voluntary missions were organized before churches got involved.

2. 1793 - The world's first modern missionary, William Carey, sailed from London to India and found an open door. One of his legacies is the development of mission societies that send missionaries out to evangelize in the far corners of the earth.

Carey was personally involved in translating the Bible into 36 languages of South Asia.

3. American foreign missions began in 1806 with Samuel J. Mills, a student at Williams College. Mills gathered about himself four fellow students who felt a burden for the heathen world.

#### Haystack Monument:

4. These young men went to Andover Theological Seminary where Adoniram Judson joined them. On June 29, 1810 they sent a petition to the Massachusetts Congregational Association at Bradford offering themselves as missionaries. They asked whether they might expect financial support from a missionary society in America or should they apply to a British missionary society. > The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions was formed.

5. By February, 1812, sufficient money was raised and the first missionaries of the American Boards sailed for the Orient. On the long voyage, however, Dr. Judson, his wife and Mr. Rice were led to revise their convictions about the proper mode of baptism and were thus convinced that immersion was the only valid way. On their arrival to Calcutta, they were baptized by William Carey. This act severed their relationship with the Society that had sent them forth and left them destitute of support. Mr. Rice returned to America to raise support from the Baptist brethren. The Baptists eagerly agreed to support them and the Baptist Missionary Union was formed.

5. Following the second Great Awakening, the world wide missionary movement continued.

J. Hudson Taylor was the first missionary to inland China, founding in 1865 the China Inland Mission. He also was the founder of Faith Missions.

The crowning glory of the seven church periods is the Philadelphia church, the only church of the seven faithfully to follow Christ's one command to evangelize the world and with little strength it did just that. For the past two centuries most nations on earth have remained an opened door to the gospel, albeit some temporarily.

#### E. Christ's 2 Fold Promise To The Philadelphia Church For Its Faithfulness

Rev. 3:9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie;

a. I Will Make Them To Come And Worship Before Thy Feet.

b. I Will Make Them To Know That I Have Loved Thee.

1. The Scottish Rite was founded at Paris, France around the time of the first Great Awakening in America. By 1755 it had acquired 32 degrees. Its 33rd and final degree, the Supreme Council or Ruling Degree of Universal Freemasonry, was inaugurated at Charleston, SC in 1801.

2. Gen. Albert Pike [1809-1891] was the most renowned 33<sup>rd</sup> degree Mason of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

3. Pike states in his book "Morals and Dogma:" "Rituals in the Scottish Rite from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 33<sup>rd</sup> degree were all acquired from the Jewish Kabbalah." Hence, it became known as the Jewish Rite of Freemasonry although only a small percent of its membership was Jewish.

4. Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry confirms this: "Each lodge is and must be a symbol of the Jewish Temple, each Master in the chair representing the Jewish King and every Freemason a personation [is a primarily-legal term, meaning 'to assume the identity of another person with intent to deceive'] of the Jewish workman."

5. "Gentile initiates who make up the bulk of membership in the Scottish Rite Freemasonry are declared Jews upon completion of their initiation."

So it was a Gentile controlled order made up those who said they were Jews and were not. Many RESEARCHERS concluded that Freemasonry was the synagogue of Satan during the Philadelphia church period.

a. In 1738 Pope Clement XII declared Freemasonry the synagogue of Satan.

b. The Roman Curia, the supreme government of the Vatican, published a book in 1961 entitled "The Plot Against the Church." It warned Catholics their church had been infiltrated by Freemasonry. The Roman Curia referred to the Scottish Rite as the synagogue of Satan.

c. Masons who renounce Freemasonry claim the same. For example, Dr. Jonathan Blanchard, a former 33rd degree Scottish Rite Mason, confirms in his two-volume work entitled "Scottish Rite Masonry Illustrated," that every lodge is a synagogue of Satan and its ritual is sorcery. Note: Dr. Blanchard was a companion of Charles G. Finney during the second Great Awakening and in the mid 1800s Blanchard was President of Wheaton College.

d. 4th example comes from French Freemasonry itself, the founder of the Scottish Rite. French Freemasonry teaches its own initiates that the lodges are indeed the synagogue of Satan. This is found in the instructions for the 30-33rd degree of French Freemasonry as recited to the recipient of the last degree by the President and the Orator of the lodge: "*The initiate of the 30th degree is sanctified and declared kadosh (ph) meaning holy, he burns incense to Lucifer and is admitted to the rank of the grand sacrificers of the angel of light. The initiate of the 31st degree mounts the mystic ladder and concludes a pact with Satan which he seals with a drop of his own blood. The initiate of the 32nd degree is made prince of the Luciferian Secret and joins the army which marches to avenge Lucifer and conquer paradise lost. The initiated of the 33rd degree becomes sovereign pontiff of the synagogue of Satan.*"

6. In the previous church periods, secret societies have infiltrated the churches to hinder evangelism. There appears to be a deliberate cooperation from the synagogue of Satan in spreading the gospel.

Such a revelation to pagans can only be God sent, causing the synagogue of Satan, those who say they are Jews and are not, To Cooperate In The Work Of Evangelism.

Historically, this first occurred in England and then America in three ways all of which are prophesied in one Greek word "worship."

Recall: I Will Make Them To Come And Worship Before Thy Feet. [Rev. 3:9]

A. "Worship" can be translated "worship along side of"

B. "due reverence to or adore"

C. "to prostrate oneself in homage."

A. Three historic events where Freemasonry made contact with the Philadelphia church and "worshipped alongside of:"

1. 1793: William Carey, the world's first modern missionary - During the years England was the center of world travel and the mighty British East India Company, the world's largest merchant marine co-op, was responsible for carrying the British flag around the world.

a. Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry confirms that Masonic lodges were established in the Americas, India, China and Australia by those merchant marines suggesting that the British sailors were Masons.

b. In the book "Scarlet and the Beast," [John Daniel] it documents one of the requirements for bringing a ship into the co-op was that the ship's owner and his entire crew be Masons.

c. Among these rugged merchant marines there were missionaries aboard from the British Isles and the Americas. While on the high seas, these missionaries never missed a worship service. Worshiping alongside of them was the ship's Masonic crew just as Christ had prophesied.

2. Another example of how Christ calls the synagogue of Satan to worship alongside of evangelicals is found in the history of revolutions. Prior to each revolution there was recruitment of those who were willing to revolt against the crown and Catholic Church. Where better to find Christians willing to throw off the yoke of religious and political tyranny than in Protestant churches? History bares record that prior to every revolution, leaders of those revolutions attended Protestant churches to recruit and as a result, worshiped alongside of evangelicals just as Christ had prophesied. This was especially true during the American Revolution when 67% of the population at that time were Christians. From the pulpits, separation from England was preached along with the salvation message.

This fulfills Christ's prophesy that he would cause the synagogue of Satan to worship alongside of Christians.

3. Another way Freemasonry bowed down to the Philadelphia church was through constitutional government for the new emerging nations. Written by Masons and approved of by Masons, these constitutions guaranteed freedom of religion. Consequently, doors of most democratic nations were opened wide to missionaries. The synagogue of Satan, while its Masonic revolutions and constitutions guaranteed freedom of worship, assisted the Philadelphia church in spreading the gospel just as Christ had prophesied.

B. The second Greek definition of how Christ makes the synagogue of Satan come and worship before the feet of evangelicals is "to do reverence to or adore."

1. William Randolph Hearst, a Jewish mason and a millionaire newspaper baron, was a member of an exclusive Jewish Masonic Lodge certified by the Scottish Rite in 1843. In 1949 when he first heard Billy Graham preach, he immediately sent word to his chain of newspapers to puff Billy Graham and overnight the evangelist became a nationally known figure. The news media across the land picked up the Hearst story and has followed Billy Graham ever since.

Jesus Christ said He would cause the synagogue of Satan to do reverence to and adore evangelicals.

2. Armand Hammer Jr., a billionaire oil baron and 33rd degree Freemason, also assisted Billy Graham. At the turn of the 20th century, Hammer Sr. brought his family to America as immigrants. As a card-carrying Communist, he was personally acquainted with Soviet dictator and Jewish Freemason Vladimir Lenin. In America, young Armand Hammer studied medicine and became a medical doctor. Meanwhile, the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia had brought famine to the Ukraine, starving 20 million peasants. In 1920, Lenin invited young Dr. Hammer to Russia to discuss the famine. Hammer returned to America and organized a relief program that shipped massive amounts of food to the Ukraine. One year later, the famine lifted. Because of Hammer's humanitarian effort he was intimate with all Soviet leaders from Lenin to Gorbachev. How did this enable Freemason Armand Hammer to assist in spreading the gospel? With one telephone call to Russia, Hammer used his powerful influence over Kremlin leaders to open the Eastern Block nations to the Billy Graham evangelistic crusades. In the early 1990s during a television documentary following the fall of the Soviet Empire, Dan Rather of CBS News credited the Billy Graham Crusades as the root cause for dismantling the Soviet Union. Should Billy Graham have turned down this invitation simply because an unbelieving Jewish Mason made a phone call? No, this was Christ's doing who said he would cause the synagogue of Satan to do reverence to evangelicals. Therefore, we can be assured that Christ placed in the heart of Armand Hammer the desire to make a phone call to the Soviet Union.

C. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Greek definition of how Christ made the synagogue of Satan come and worship before the feet of evangelicals is "to prostrate oneself in homage." Submit to the Philadelphia church

1. Charles G. Finney became an outspoken critic of Freemasonry. Freemasonry itself in a 1960 Masonic book entitled "Ten Thousand Famous Freemasons" informs us of the content of Finney's messages: "Finney wrote and preached anti-Masonry wherever he was and with Jonathan Blanchard, a Presbyterian minister and President of Wheaton College, published an anti-Masonic newspaper called 'The Christian Sinecure.'" According to the Chicago publisher of the Sinecure, Freemasonry had such a hold on the delivery of mail, that this publication was constantly intercepted on its way to subscribers. Finney writes that before the publication of Finney's book, the Baptist denomination had been greatly carried away by Freemasonry. A large proportion of its eldership and membership were Freemasons. The murder of William Morgan and the publication of Masonry broke upon the churches like a clap of thunder from a clear sky. The facts were such, the revelations were so clear that the Baptist denomination backed down and took the lead in renouncing and denouncing the institution.

Consider: God set the seal of His approval upon the action taken of these churches at that time by pouring out His Spirit upon them. Revivals immediately followed. In 1830 the greatest revival spread over this land that had ever been known in this or any other country.

Masons repented everywhere and 2,000 lodges were suspended. Of the 50,000 Masons throughout the US at that time, 40,000 turned their backs on the Lodge never to walk through its doors again. Great conventions were called by thousands of repentant Masons who made public confessions of their relation to the institution and openly renounced Freemasonry.

Wherever Charles G. Finney and other evangelists preached, Masons by the thousands rushed to the altars, repented and bowed before the feet of evangelists and worshiped God.

Fulfillment of Christ's prophecy in Rev. 3:9 — "Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan to make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee."

The Second Portion Of The Promise Is Found In Revelation 3:10

1. Because thou hast kept the Word Of My Patience = "*My command to persevere*"

a. Patience, endurance and perseverance are vital in our spiritual growth.

b. The faithfulness of the Philadelphia church goes beyond preaching the gospel to all nations.

"Thou hast kept the word of my patience" reveals the depth of that faithfulness, even in times of adversity.

c. "Kept" in Greek = "to watch over, to guard from loss or injury, to keep an eye on."

d. "Word" in Greek = "to communicate the doctrine of divine expression."

e. "Patience" means "to remain, bear trials, to tarry behind cheerfully and hopefully."

The entire phrase "keep the word of my patience" can be translated "in times of trials, the missionaries cheerfully and hopefully tarried behind to watch over and guard from loss or injury the doctrine of the divine expression of Christ."

History records that over a period of ~200 years missionaries stayed in these foreign nations for life, even in times of revolutionary upheaval and two world wars.

Rev. 3: 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.

a. Keep = tereo ek = keep out

This suggests the church will be excluded from The Tribulation.

The current time of testing: the church is being tested through trials to verify her metal and determine one's place of rule in Christ's coming kingdom. [Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21]

Interesting Note: Jesus says 7 times in Revelation 2 & 3 in His letters to the churches:

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

Move to Revelation 13:9 during the description of The Tribulation Period:

If anyone has an ear, let him hear:

Notice the ABSENCE of "what the Spirit says to the churches."

b. The Tribulation period is clearly a time when the Lord will test the earth dwellers [persistent unbelievers in Revelation] and the nation of Israel.

Ryrie: "The promise of Rev. 3:10 guarantees being kept from The Tribulation itself.

The promise is not, 'I will keep you from trials. It is I will keep you from THE HOUR OF TRIAL.'"

c. Hour = Greek = a short season of time

d. Temptation = Greek = the experience of evil

Titus 2:13 Looking for that Blessed Hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ;

I Thess. 1:10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

### Christ's Encouraging Challenge

3:11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

You are about to win a crown. Losing this crown has nothing to do with losing salvation but has to do with losing a reward. The crown of evangelicals and missionaries is the Crown Of Joy found in Philippians 4:1 or the Crown Of Rejoicing in I Thessalonians 2:19.

Philippians 4:15-17 but I desire fruit that may abound to your account....

Paul writes that financial givers and prayer partners of missionaries are given credit for souls won to Christ by the missionaries they support.

Winning the lost is for life, not short-term; there are souls still to be saved. Finish Well!

If you give up now, you will lose your portion of the crown of joy.

### The Eternal Occupation Of The Philadelphia Overcomer

Rev. 3:12 "Him that overcomes will I make a pillar in the temple of my God,

- Never shall he go out of it:
- 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.

Pillar = Greek = an upright and active position

He will have three names engraved upon him.

The Greek word for "name" when used in this context carries the idea of having authority.

- The name of God, meaning he will have authority under God.
- New Jerusalem meaning that his authority under God is in the city foursquare.
- The new name of Jesus Christ. Revelation 19:12 makes mention of it —
- "His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself."
- Tie the meaning of all three names together with the overcomer's position as pillar: Philadelphia overcomer has an upright and active position with authority under God and Christ in the New Jerusalem.

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