

# How Would Christ Describe Your Relationship With Him?

## Part 6 Continued

Revelation 3:7-13

Revelation Series

February 27, 2011

- I. The church at Philadelphia
  - A. Background
    - 1. Little is known about this church. It appears it remained in ministry until about the mid 14th century...even after Islam had taken over this part of the world
    - 2. It was an area frequently rocked by earthquakes
  - B. How Christ revealed Himself to this church
    - 1. The One who is holy—reminding us that He is **God** and real and **genuine**
    - 2. The One who is true—reminding us that He is **authentic**, complete
    - 3. The One who holds the key of David—reminding us that He is the **Messiah** with **power** and **authority**
    - 4. The One who opens doors no one can shut and shuts doors no one can open—reminding us of His sovereign **rule** (cf. Is. 43:13b & Dan. 4:35b)
  - C. Things [in the church at Philadelphia] which Christ approved
    - 1. You have kept my **Word** (v.8)
    - 2. You have not **denied** my name (cf. Matt. 26:34)
    - 3. You have kept my command to **endured patiently** (v.10, cf. Gal. 6:9)
  - D. Christ's admonition to them
    - 1. **NOTHING**
  - E. What is their promised reward if they do persevere?
    - 1. First of all remember Christ said, "I am coming soon. **Hold on** to what you have, so that no one will take your crown" (cf. Col. 1:21-23)
    - 2. Jesus will **vindicate** them before their opponents (v. 9; cf. I Cor. 4:5a, 2:15a; Rom. 12:17-21)
- E. 3. Deliverance **from** the "hour of trial" that is going to come upon the whole world... (v10b)
    - a. The 'hour of trial' is the Tribulation—a very evil **seven year** period that is soon to occur
    - b. We will be delivered from the hour of trial via the "Rapture" which refers to being "**caught up**" to meet Jesus in the clouds (Jn. 14:1-4; I Cor. 15:51-54; I Thess. 4:13-17)
    - c. Four views on the timing of the Rapture
      - i. **Pre-Tribulation** rapture happens before the Tribulation
      - ii. **Mid-Tribulation** rapture happens in the middle of the Tribulation
      - iii. **Post-Tribulation** Rapture happens after the tribulation
      - iv. **Pre-wrath** Rapture happens after the middle of the Tribulation but before the wrath of God
    - d. The hour of trial is for those who do **not know** Jesus herein referred to as "inhabitants of the earth" (cf. inhabitants - Rev. 3:10; 6:10; 8:13; 11:10; 13:8, 12, 14; 14:6; 17:2, 8.)
    - e. The **purpose** of the hour of trial is to separate those who will repent of their sin from those who won't (repenters -Rev 6:9-11; 7: 9-10,14; 14:4; 17:14b. Non-repenters -Rev. 6:15-17; 9:20; 16:11; 19:17-18)
  - 4. I will make you a **pillar** in the Temple of my God (v.12).  
Implying we will live with God in heaven in a close, personal, unshakable, permanent, growing relationship



Dr. Larry G. Shelton • • • • • Contemporary Service

A copy of today's sermon can be purchased at the Information Center and is also posted on our web site, [paradisecma.org](http://paradisecma.org).

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Additional verses that encourage us to "hold on":  
Matthew 11:28, Hebrews 12:3 and Galatians 6:9