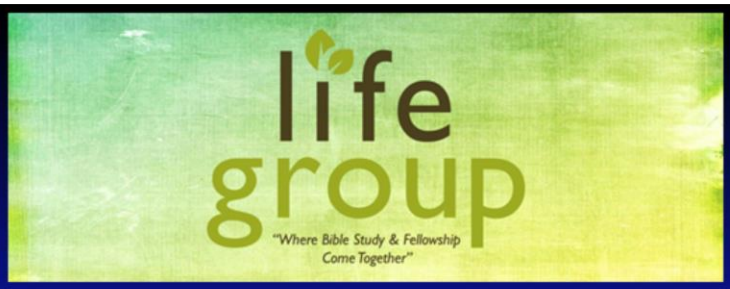
# Welcome to the Worship Celebration of

SIMPLY BIBLICAL | FAMILY INTEGRATED




LIFE Group …

6:30 pm at the PEED's home this Wed. evening

Bring your Bibles, your Notebooks, an Expectant heart and a Prayerful-Thankful Attitude to Experience the Presence, the Power and the Purpose of Jesus Christ, together

# Jesus Christ Evaluates His Churches – prt 8

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Seven Churches of Asia — 96 AD

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**REVIEW:**

**Our FOCUS** ➔ Find out what Jesus Christ **Likes** & **Loves** and what Jesus Christ **Dislikes** & **Hates** -- **FYI**: There are Only 2 Churches in which Jesus Christ does NOT call to Repentance.

1. **Intro:** The **Symbolic Picture of Jesus Christ** revealed & His Message **Intro** to the 7 Churches
2. Understanding God's **Hatred** regarding anything related to **Idolatry** and **Paganism**, etc.
3. **Ephesus** (Rev. 2:1-7) - **Lost Your First Love - Repent - Regain that First Love**
   Time Period Represents --> **From the Day of Pentecost** (Acts 2) until around **70 A.D. or so**
4. **Smyrna** (Rev. 2:8-11) - sweet smelling incense, sacrifice ➔ characterized by **Christian Martyrdom** → Beginning with the Jewish **Bar Kockba Revolt** - which led to the Persecution of Israel by the Roman Empire. Rome viewed **"Christians"** as a new **Jewish Cult**, so it was under that same category at the beginning. Thus, the **Destruction** of the Israeli **Temple** in Jerusalem in **70 A.D.** was the beginning of the seed of the of the **10 waves** of Persecution by the Roman Empire against Christians – it was **LINKED.** Those **10 days** of Persecution ➔ represented those **10 Distinct waves of Persecution** by the Roman Empire ➔ this was **the KEY that unlocked** the **Mystery of the 7 Churches** → Represent **Periods of time** within the Church Age – in the case of Smyrna – it represents the Time Period of **67 A.D. until around 313 A.D.**

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5. **Pergamos** (Rev. 2:12-17) - **BAD MARRIAGE** --> Represents the beginnings of the **Roman Catholic Church** ... **313 A.D until around 529 A.D.** (go to **http://NLFJI.org/Per** for more)

The Pagan Invasion and Integration after **Constantine the First** married the "church" to Rome.

-- The **Grand Compromise** based on the **"Doctrines of Balaam"** ➔ **Idolatry and Immorality**

-- The **Nicolaitan Model of Leadership** was **Embraced** and Employed (Clergy, Cardinals, Popes)

➔ **Jesus HATES** Idolatry, Immorality and the Nicolaitan Model of church leadership.

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**6. Thyatira (Rev. 2:18-29) – Royal goddess of Purple --> 2nd Pagan/Idolatrous Phase of the Roman church … Represents the time period of 529 A.D. to the 1300's A.D. (Dark Ages into the beginnings of the Middle Ages)**

**Massive Integration of Paganism and Idolatry ("teachings of Jezebel") into the Roman church ➔ Mariolatry, Praying to the saints, "Christian Calendar" (which is really a Pagan Conglomerate Calendar that was "Christianized" by the Roman church), the rise of the POWER of Popes/Clergy ➔ Nicolaitans continue.**

**Tremendous amounts of much false doctrine assimilated and integrated. This will lead them to a "sickbed" and Jesus "striking Jezebel's children to 'death'".**

**This leads us to Sardis, the DEAD church with a "Worldly Accepted" Name.**

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7. **SARDIS** (Rev. 3:1-6) –the **DEAD** church with a **"Worldly Accepted" Name.**
**Represents the Roman Catholic Church from the 1300's to the Present**
The Black Death, the Plague (bed of sickness of Jezebel, the children stricken dead … Revelation 2:21-23) – this period of time starts with the Judgment God gave to Thyatira because of the teaching of Jezebel that they allowed. The integration of Paganism, Idolatry and Immorality, etc. This perfectly describes the Roman Catholic church of Europe coming out of the Dark Ages into the Middles Ages and **the Plague** in 1347. No Coincidence, but Prophetically Predicted. Then the Roman Catholic church proceeded to gain Earthly Power and NAME for herself. She gained military strength, and the Pope was so powerful as to command kings to be deposed or raised up, create boundaries for nations, etc. Think of the Papal Infallibility, the Crusades, the Inquisition, etc. She thought that she finally gained a NAME for herself, that she was ALIVE … but God said that she was **DEAD** - full of DEAD Works (dead religious rituals, pagan-rooted rituals and traditions)
**CONTRAST** this Huge, Massive Earthly POWER and NAME that SARDIS / Roman Catholic church had with the church of Philadelphia, who we will look at , today

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**Revelation 3:7-13**

And to the angel of the church in **Philadelphia** write,
'These things says **He who is HOLY, He who is TRUE**, "He who has the **key of David**, He who **OPENS** and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens": [8] "**I** know your works. See, **I have set before you an OPEN DOOR, and no one can shut it; BECAUSE** you have **a little strength**, have **KEPT My Word**, and have **NOT** denied **My Name**. [9] Indeed I will make those of **the synagogue of Satan**, who say they are Jews and are not, but **lie** - indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that **I have loved you**. [10] **BECAUSE** you have **kept My command to PERSEVERE**, I also will **keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world**, to **test those who dwell on the earth**. [11] Behold, I am coming quickly! **Hold fast** what you have, that **no one may take your crown**. [12] He who **overcomes**, I will make him a **PILLAR** in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will **write** on him the **Name of My God** and the **Name of the city of My God**, the **New Jerusalem**, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him **My New Name**.
[13] "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the **churches**."'

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Columns of an ancient Byzantine Church in Philadelphia (Alaşehir)

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**Today's Study → "the church of Philadelphia"**
**Philadelphia – "brotherly love" (Today it is the Turkish city of Alaşehir )**
**Philadelphia represents, prophetically:** the Protestant Reformation church
the church age: **1300s A.D. until the RAPTURE**

1. **'… He who is HOLY, He who is TRUE, "He who has the key of David, He who OPENS and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens" … ' (Rev. 3:7)→**
   Why does He introduce Himself like this to the church of Philadelphia . . . ?
   Holy, True, KEYS of David … OPEN and SHUT Doors … ???
   What are Keys for? What are the keys to this passage of Holy Scripture?

   He never condemns this Church, so … It must be to show His Alignment with this Church …

   She is **HOLY**, in Christ,
   **Holds to God's Truth,**
   and **Relies** Upon God for **Open Doors for the Gospel**

## Jesus Christ Evaluates His Churches – prt 8

2. "I know your works. See, I have set before you an OPEN DOOR, and no one can shut it; BECAUSE you have a little strength, have KEPT My Word, and have NOT denied My Name.

He knows everything about every person and church … No condemnation, no critique, only a REWARD of an OPEN DOOR … for WHAT ? What did they HAVE (hint: see the list AFTER "because" ) ➔ Protestant Reformation

BECAUSE you have a LITTLE STRENGTH, have KEPT My Word, and have NOT denied My Name.

They Believed in, Held Fast to, Clung onto, Trusted in, and Obeyed God's Holy Word. They were Bold in Proclaiming His Word and the Gospel of Christ to the lost around them. They were Not Ashamed of Christ nor of His Word (see Matt 10:24-39; Mark 8:35-38).
They had no earthly power, UNLIKE "church of SARDIS" which had a Worldly Powerful, Recognized NAME, that she gained for herself.
Philadelphia, ONLY had the NAME of JESUS CHRIST, that's ALL.

**Do you see the difference?** SARDIS had her own NAME to rely upon, a worldly recognized, POWERFUL Name (in the world's eyes) … SARDIS is like BABYLON/BABEL when they were building the Tower of Babel … so that they would Make a NAME for themselves (to be GREAT in the sight of everyone).
The Babel/Babylon connection to Pergamos, Thyatira, and to SARDIS are undeniable. Direct Connections to Mystery Babylon who rides on the back of the Beast (see Rev. 17 & 18)
Whereas, Philadelphia, ONLY has JESUS, His NAME and HIS WORD (the Bible) to rely upon. Because of this JESUS CHRIST Himself COMMENDS them, Applauds them …

**They were NOT Ashamed of His Name, or His Word, the Bible … therefore He will NOT be ashamed, but with PRAISE their Name before God on the DAY … the Day of Handing out Rewards.**

**This is why the church of Philadelphia resembles, perfectly, the Protestant Reformation, Protesting the Roman Catholic Church's Paganism, Idolatry, and False Doctrines …**

**Because the Protestants relied upon the Bible, Alone for their Doctrines, their "Practices" and Relationship with God and for securing His Eternal Salvation for themselves, etc."**

**Forever Forgiveness of our sins in NOT reliant upon the Pope, the Cardinals, or the Name of the Roman Catholic church, but upon Christ and His Finished Work of Redemption (Crucifixion, Death, Burial, and Resurrection) alone. Christ and His Finished Work of Redemption is ENOUGH.**

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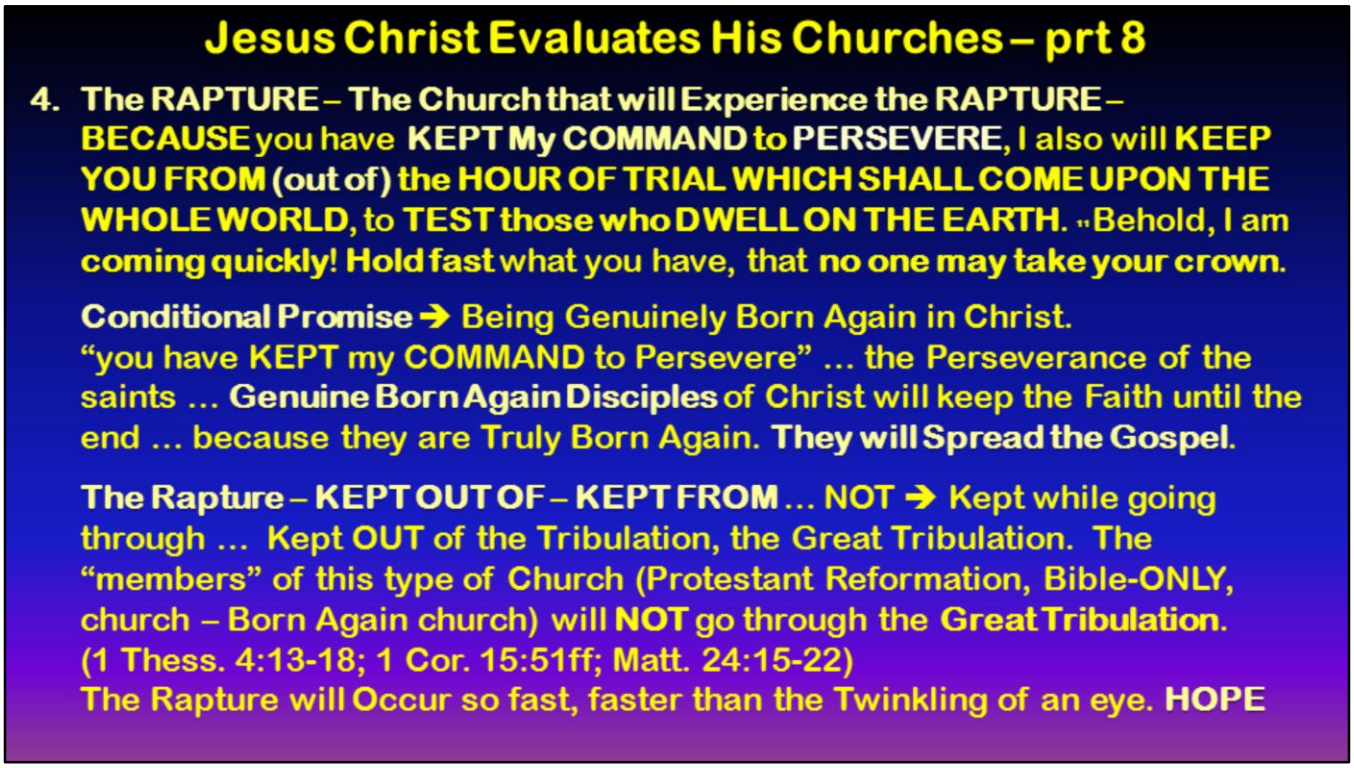
3. **Exposing the Synagogue of SATAN –**
   (very similar to Smyrna, the only other God-Pleasing church **Rev. 2:9**)
   Jesus is going to Publicly Shame those who are a part of that "synagogue" of SATAN … some day this will happen …

   He will Expose them that they **LIE**. They will Bow down at Philadelphia's **FEET**. They will KNOW that Jesus **LOVES** the church of Philadelphia (and does **not love** the Synagogue of Satan). **Pay attention to this.**

   **Who are these folks?** (go to **http://NLFJI.org/BOOK** for more answers )

   They are Religious folks who claim **"descendancy"** from the Jewish Religion? Can you think of any Powerful Group of Religious People that claimed that they have Direct Progressive Lineage Descendancy from the Jews? Maybe like the Popes claiming their direct, progressive descenancy from a Jewish Fisherman, like, let's say, maybe… hmmmm **PETER ??? Hint Hint …**
   **One Day, some day, they will worship at the FEET of the church of Philadelphia … (Philippians 2:10-11 … maybe?)**

**The ROMAN CATHOLIC Church (RCC) is the Synagogue of SATAN … that is what the Protestants definitely believed … why?**
**Because the RCC mixed in Paganistic Idolotrous beliefs, traditions, rituals, and "holy days" into Christian beliefs and practices … SARDIS became corrupt.**
**Philadelphia is the PERFECT Description of the Protestant Reformation church movement, perfectly describes the rise of Protestantism to the letter.**




**4. The RAPTURE … those of this church will exist at the Time of the Rapture … (Rev. 3:10-11)**

[10] **BECAUSE** you have **KEPT My COMMAND to PERSEVERE**, I also will **KEEP YOU FROM the HOUR OF TRIAL WHICH SHALL COME UPON THE WHOLE WORLD**, to **TEST those who DWELL ON THE EARTH**. [11] Behold, I am coming quickly! **Hold fast** what you have, that **no one may take your crown**.

**Conditional** Promise to Experience the **Rapture** when it does occur. Have you met that condition, yourself? Have you KEPT His WORD, His Command … have you Repented of your sins?
Have you Trusted in Jesus Christ and **His Finished Work of Redemption** as Enough to Secure your Eternal Redemption, Forever Forgiveness, Eternal Life with Christ? Was Christ's Crucifixion, Death, Burial and Resurrection ENOUGH? That describes **KEPT My COMMAND to PERSEVERE** … no matter what Satan or the world throws at you to DENY CHRIST and HIS Finished Work of Redemption on your Behalf, you simply Trust in Christ … **He is Enough for you**. It also relates to **the Command of Spreading the Gospel**, as well. Since that was His last Command to His Disciples before Ascending up into Heaven (see Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:44ff; Acts 1:8). **Are you genuinely Born Again in Christ**?

The phrase: **the HOUR OF TRIAL WHICH SHALL COME UPON THE WHOLE WORLD**, to **TEST those who DWELL ON THE EARTH**. This what we read about in **Revelation 6 thru 19** … **the Tribulation, The Great Tribulation**.

Jesus referenced this in **Matthew 24:15-22** → verses 21-22 in particular:
[21] For then there will be a **GREAT TRIBULATION**, such as has NOT been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, **NOR EVER SHALL BE**. [22] And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

➔ **Behold I am coming quickly!** This implies the Quickness of the Rapture, when it happens, **NOT** that the Rapture would come Quickly after John wrote this book. The Rapture, according to 1 Corinthians 15:51ff would be faster than the "twinkling of an eye" … so very fast it would almost happen instantaneously.

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5. **WARNING and REWARD – (Rev. 3:11-13) [are we listening to God's Spirit?]**
   **Don't Lose your Crown – Hold onto It** … their Crown is what they already had in Christ as Christians.
   **How could they lose it?** (the "CROWN of LIFE" is what Smyrna's reward was - Rev. 2:10) –
   If the **Protestant Reformation** churches lose their GRIP on their Strong Personal Faith IN Jesus Christ **AND** in His Holy Word, the Bible …
   they will Lose that Crown … Lose Sound Doctrine? see **2 Timothy 4:1-4**
   then they will then become **LAODICEA** … the **compromising church**
   **(do you see the connection?)**

   **Rewards**: They would be a **PILLAR** in His Temple (Pillar and Support of the Truth (1 Timothy 3:15ff) – Great HONOR in God's House
   **NAME** ➔ instead of Having a Famous NAME like SARDIS had (so they thought) God will give these Christians a Brand New Name, related to the New Jerusalem … God give them His Name … His HONOR – His Glory

**If Philadelphia COMPROMISES … those Spiritual Descendants of Philadelphia will become the SEED of the church of LAODICEA … the Connection is Obvious.**
**Holding onto the CROWN of Sound Doctrine, the CROWN of Personal Trusting Faith in Christ Jesus … is the Only way to Avoid becoming LAODICEA and Maintain being Philadelphia**

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Instead of the Worldly Popular Name that **SARDIS** Gained (just like what Babylon was pursuing with her Tower – "make a Name of ourselves") … Just like ABRAHAM … God would Make Abraham's Name Great … because He Trusted in God … So it is with **Philadelphia** … they did not have anything this world would call great, that little **No Name church** → who even knows anything about her? Who, … I have no idea who you are talking about … ???
**Yet**, because all they have is **Jesus Christ, His Name**, and **His Word** … God has exalted her with **His Name** and an **Open Door for the Gospel to the Ends of the Earth**. This **Perfectly Describes** what happened with the **Protestant Reformation**. They were a very small persecuted minority. Because they only cared about Jesus Christ, His Word, and spreading His Word to the ends of the earth, God **honored** them with an **Open Door for the Gospel**. This will be the **Church that God Raptures** out of this World **BEFORE** the Great Tribulation starts. This is **NOT** said about any other church. Will this be said of you, today? **Are you Ready?**

**They Believe in, Live according to, and Spread the WORD of Jesus Christ**

**See y'all Next Time we Gather…**
**@ LIFE Group and/or Here Next Week**

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FELLOWSHIP

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