

# Holding On To What We Have

Rev. 3:11

## Introduction:

- A. First three chapters of Revelation.
  - 1. Golden candlesticks representing churches like us.
  - 2. Resurrected and glorified Christ walking in their midst — to each “I know your works.”
    - a. Ephesus: “Left first love” (2:4-5).
    - b. Pergamas: Lost purity of doctrine, “repent”. (2:14-16)
    - c. Thyatira: Lost purity of life. (2:20-23).
    - d. Sardis: Dead church (3:1).
    - e. Laodicea: Lukewarm, self-satisfied. (3:15-16).
    - f. Smyrna: Poor but rich ... be faithful. (2:9,10).
    - g. Philadelphia (3:8, 11).
- B. Admonition to Philadelphia in verse 11 has two timely implications:

## Discussion:

### I. It Is Possible to *Lose* What We Have.

- A. It can happen at any level of spiritual growth.
  - 1. Demas.
    - a. Called a fellow-laborer by Paul (Phil. 24).
    - b. Simply mentioned by Paul — little said (Col. 4:14).
    - c. Last reference — “forsaken me.” (2 Tim. 4:10).
  - 2. Paul recognized danger to himself (1 Cor. 9:27).
- B. It can happen among the best of people.
  - 1. Judas with Christ and apostles.
  - 2. Demas’ associates (Paul, Mark, Luke) — His records vs theirs.
- C. It can happen in any kind of place.
  - 1. Adam and Eve in garden of Eden.
  - 2. My teacher in “Christian School”
- D. It can happen to any church.
  - 1. Through complacency born of prosperity. (Cf. Deut. 6:11,12).
  - 2. Through discouragement from adversity, struggle and exhaustion.
  - 3. Through living too much in the past. (Cf. Phil 3:13, 14)
  - 4. Through biting and devouring one another. (Gal 5:15).
  - 5. Through doctrinal and moral softness. (2 Tim. 2:2-4; 1 Cor. 10:12).

### II. It Is Possible to *Hold* What We Have.

- A. We have same resources and defenses that Philadelphia had.
  - 1. Same gospel (cf. Rom 1:16).
  - 2. Same commission and promises. (Matt. 28:18-20; 1 Cor. 10:13).
  - 3. Same plan of salvation, same plan for church.
- B. We have benefit of 2000 years of Christianity to strengthen our faith.
- C. We have same divine Overseer that encouraged Philadelphia.
  - 1. Still walks among candlesticks. (Cf. Chaplain and 4 star general).
  - 2. Still makes intercession for us. (Heb. 7:25).
  - 3. Still cleanses us with his blood. (1 John 1:7-9).
- D. We can be faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10).

## Conclusion:

- A. “Hold fast” not the same as “hold you own.”
- B. Let us daily become more like Him who walks in midst of churches.