

Pillars in the Temple of God

Revelation 3:11-13

Thought for the Day. Because of our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, we are promised a permanent dwelling place in the eternal city of God and an intimate relationship with our Lord and Savior forever.

We are saddened and concerned by the images and accounts of those who have lost their homes, their businesses and, in some cases, their lives as a result of the fires throughout Oregon, Washington, and California. Providentially, we come to a passage today that teaches the eternal permanence of our heavenly home and the unshakeable intimate relationship that we will enjoy with our God and Savior forever in the eternal city of God, the New Jerusalem.

I. The Greeting (3:7)

II. The Commendation (3:8)

III. The Promises (3:9-13)

A. The Promise That Their Enemies Will Be Humbled (3:9)

B. The Promise That They Will Be Kept From the Hour of Trial (3:10)

C. The Promise That They Will Have an Eternal Place in Heaven (3:11-12a)

11 I am coming soon.

- Jesus gives us very specific guidance about how we should prepare for His coming. The prospect of the Lord's soon return should motivate us:
 - Rev. 22:6-7 – To diligent obedience of God's Word. We need to confess and repent of our sins and be obedient to His Word.
 - Rev. 22:12-13 – To live in the light of the Judgment Seat of Christ. We need to ask: Is what I am doing going to be considered worthy of reward, or worthless?
 - Rev. 22:20 – To live in eager anticipation and expectation of His coming. Am I excited or frightened by the prospect of the Lord's coming?
"If we feel ashamed when we read the Word, then we have to stop and find out why and then confess it to the Lord... Better to be ashamed now and confess it than to be ashamed when we meet the Lord (1 John 2:28)." (*Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary*)
- It has been 2,000 years since Jesus made this statement! It would be better translated, "I am coming quickly, without delay, suddenly." (*Strong's Concordance*).
 - "When He does come, it will happen 'quickly.' Surprise and suddenness are present in this declaration..." (*Hocking, World Leader, p. 92*)
 - "I am coming soon" speaks of the Lord's imminent return for the Church—i.e., it could happen at any moment. (1 Thessalonians 4:16)
 - He will come without announcement. Now is the time to prepare! (1 Cor. 15:51-52)

Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.

- Cp. Revelation 2:10; 2:25-26; 3:3.
- Commitment to the Lord and perseverance in the faith to the end of life are the biblical evidences of genuine salvation.

- “It is the ‘crown of life’ (2:10) to which He is referring. It is the symbol of final victory—living forever with the Lord. Those who deny the Lord and do not hold fast to their commitment will be lost forever. There will be no crown for them.” (*Hocking, World Leader, p. 93*)
- No one can steal our salvation; we are eternally secure in Christ, but we can lose our rewards for unfaithfulness to the Lord. (1 Cor. 3:10-15; 2 John 8; 1 John 2:28).

12 The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it...

- “...‘A pillar in the temple of My God’ is, of course, not to be taken literally but figuratively. According to Revelation 21:22, there is no literal temple in the eternal city. The ‘temple of My God’ refers to the dwelling place of God, and the fact that we are described as ‘a pillar’ indicates that we have a permanent place with the Lord forever and ever. “These words call to mind a wonderful promise from Isaiah 56:5: [To those who are faithful to me] ‘I will give in my house and within my walls a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off.’ “When Jesus says, ‘and he shall go out no more,’ He means we shall never be separated from Him. We will ‘dwell in the house of the Lord forever’ (Psalm 23:6). As Paul wrote so beautifully, ‘For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord’ (Romans 8:38-39). Nothing can ever separate us from the love of God!” (*Hocking, World Leader, pp. 93-94*)

D. The Promise That They Will Have a New Identity (3:12b)

...and 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 from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.

- We are assured of a special identity and relationship to the Lord forever. This consists of three names that will be written upon the believer:
 - The name of my God: ownership – we belong to Him.
 - The name of the city of my God: citizenship – we are citizens of His kingdom.
 - My own new name: relationship – we are his beloved children.
- We will never be a nameless face in the crowds of heaven!
- “Our relationship to God the Father and God the Son and the eternal city, the New Jerusalem, are all made secure by this wonderful promise. It’s like one giant summary statement—*we belong to the Lord*—and nothing can ever change that fact!” (*Hocking, World Leader, p. 94*)

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

“The challenge to all who hear today is to receive Jesus Christ as Saviour and, having received Him, to bear a faithful witness for the Lord. This will confirm their salvation and their possession of eternal life with God. Like those in Philadelphia, they can contemplate not only present but future deliverance from this world and the enjoyment of all the privileges of eternity because of the Lord’s provision.” (*Walvoord, Revelation, p. 89*)