



Park Community Church

GENESIS ————— //

BOOKENDS

// ————— REVELATION

Revelation 3:7-13

Summary

Pastor Mike preached from Revelation 3:7-13, focusing on Jesus' letter to the church in Philadelphia. This church, though small and seemingly powerless in a hostile environment, received only commendation from Jesus without any rebuke. Despite facing opposition from the Jewish religious community and feeling insignificant in their bustling city, they had faithfully kept God's word, not denied Jesus' name, and demonstrated patient endurance. Jesus acknowledged their faithfulness and promised to keep them through coming trials.

The message emphasized four key words Jesus spoke to this church: strong commendation for their faithfulness, strong promises including protection from God's judgment and permanent fellowship with Him, strong encouragement to hold fast until His return, and absolute security rooted in His unchanging love. The sermon highlighted that while believers may face physical suffering, they are spiritually secure in Christ's love and will be kept safe through any tribulation.

Questions

1. The church in Philadelphia was described as having 'little power' yet received only commendation from Jesus. What does this teach us about how God measures success versus how the world measures it?
2. Jesus commended the Philadelphia church for keeping His word and not denying His name despite opposition. What are some ways we might be tempted to deny Jesus' name or compromise His word in our current culture?
3. The sermon mentioned that Jesus promises to keep believers 'from' the hour of trial, not necessarily 'out of' it. How does this distinction help us understand God's protection in our lives?
4. Jesus said 'I am coming soon' as an encouragement to hold fast. How should the reality of Christ's return impact the way we live our daily lives?
5. The pastor contrasted living for 'the possibly celestial future' versus 'enjoying the present.' How can we balance enjoying God's gifts in this life while still living with eternal perspective?

6. Jesus promised to make the Philadelphia believers 'pillars in the temple of my God' who will 'never go out of it.' What does this promise of permanent fellowship with God mean to you personally?
7. The message emphasized that our security doesn't depend on our hold on Jesus, but on His hold on us. How does this truth change the way we think about our relationship with God?
8. Like the church in Philadelphia, we may feel small and powerless in our big city. How can we find encouragement to remain faithful when we feel overwhelmed by the culture around us?

Application

This week, identify one area where you feel pressure to compromise your faith or remain silent about Jesus. Commit to 'holding fast' in that specific situation, whether it's at work, school, or in your neighborhood. Practice patient endurance by faithfully representing Christ in that challenging environment, remembering that Jesus sees your faithfulness even when it feels small or insignificant.

Key Takeaways

1. God measures success differently than the world - faithfulness matters more than size or apparent power
2. Jesus commends those who keep His word and don't deny His name despite opposition and pressure
3. Christ's promise to 'keep us from' trials means spiritual protection, not necessarily immunity from physical suffering
4. The reality of Jesus' return should motivate us to live with urgency, hope, and faithfulness
5. Our security in Christ is based on His unchanging love for us, not on the strength of our hold on Him