



Issue No. 16: July 2009

“...The Comfort of the Scriptures...”

by Robert Ardis

It seems that every once in a while during my Bible studies, a certain scripture or even a portion of the scripture will have such an impact on my mind that it stays in my thoughts for days and even weeks. This was the case in preparing for my Pentecost sermon last month. I used Rom. 15:4 as a key verse as I had done quite a few times before, but the profoundness of the verse has really stuck with me. The verse states: **“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”**

In these times that are fraught with worldwide troubles, trials, and uncertainties we must realize that a time of great tribulation is fast approaching. Even today one out of every sixth person on earth goes to bed hungry every night. That equates to one billion people! Matt. 24:21 warns that this impending time of tribulation will be the worst time of calamity ever to befall Planet Earth and the stage is being set for it right now, today: **“For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.”**

We all know the major industrialized nations of the world are suffering an unbelievable economic catastrophe that will soon change the political and religious climate of Europe and bring about the prophesied Beast and the False Prophet that is destined to plunge this entire world into the Great Tribulation. Yet, even now, there are troubles and trials every where. Millions are unemployed here in the United States. In South Carolina one out every eight persons are unemployed. The State of California, once the richest of the United States, has run up such a phenomenal debt [34 \$billion] that they are planning to issue IOU's to their creditors instead of cash.

Things are going to get a lot worse before they get better!

We of the CGF knew and really expected these calamities to begin, perhaps not in the details as is evident today—but we know we are in the Day of the Lord and prophecy shall be fulfilled. So, getting back to Rom. 15:4, let me copy it again phrase by phrase.

- **For whatsoever was written aforetime was written for our learning...**

Prophecy is history written in advance! There are entire chapters in the Bible “written for our learning” that informs us of what to expect when a nation [or individual] walks humbly in God's laws—wonderful blessings will result. However, if a nation [or individual] departs from God's ways—terrible curses—as we see in the world today, is promised. Lev. 26 and Deut 28 are examples of “whatsoever has been written aforetime” as a warning to those who can understand, therefore we aren't surprised at the evil conditions of the world, but have expected it!

- **That we through patience and the comfort of the scriptures...**

This phrase means a lot to me! God is true and faithful. God does not lie! The scriptures can be depended upon and they never contradict. When God makes a promise we can be absolutely sure it will be fulfilled in His time and way—this is where *patience* comes in. Dan. 12:13 tells us **“Blessed is he that waits ...”** and “waiting” requires *patience*—**“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith (temptations, trials, troubles, tribulations) worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing (James 1:2-4).**

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Greetings brethren!

This past fortnight has been exciting with lots happening. Apart from sending out what many of us will agree is the most powerful edition yet of *The Midnight Cry*, which Pastor General Robert Ardis described as being “chockfull of vitally important articles designed by Christ to help the reader to know where He is Working”, Internet users will also have noticed a total revamp of our website’s homepage.

On logging into the website, one will now be better able to navigate around the various sections. It is now also much easier to identify updates that are regularly uploaded. All of these improvements will hopefully help stimulate God’s begotten children in Laodicea, as well as His many scattered sheep, to check out the website more often and thus stay regularly exposed to Christ’s Voice and His Work at this crucial time in both world and Church history.

When one reflects about what’s going on in the world, one cannot help but mention an event, described as a secretive and exclusive assembly, which took place less than two months ago in Greece. I want to thank Deacon Ralph Turner who sent me information that led me to a website that dared divulge a little of what transpired during the Bilderberg conference, which is held annually amid scattered and limited global media attention.

What follows are excerpts from a report about *The Bilderberg Plan for 2009: Remaking the Global Political Economy*, as they appeared on www.globalresearch.ca...:

From May 14-17, the global elite met in secret in Greece for the yearly Bilderberg conference, amid scattered and limited global media attention. Roughly 130 of the world’s most powerful individuals came together to discuss the pressing issues of today, and to chart a course for the next year. The main topic of discussion at this year’s meeting was the global financial crisis.

Before the meeting began, Bilderberg investigative journalist Daniel Estulin reported on the main item of the agenda, which was leaked to him by his sources inside. Though such reports cannot be verified, his sources, along with those of veteran Bilderberg tracker, Jim Tucker, have proven to be shockingly

accurate in the past. Apparently, the main topic of discussion at this year’s meeting was to address the economic crisis, in terms of undertaking “either a prolonged, agonizing depression that dooms the world to decades of stagnation, decline and poverty ... or an intense-but-shorter depression that paves the way for a new sustainable economic world order, with less sovereignty but more efficiency.” Other items on the agenda included a plan to “continue to deceive millions of savers and investors who believe the hype about the supposed up-turn in the economy.

They are about to be set up for massive losses and searing financial pain in the months ahead,” and “there will be a final push for the enactment of the Lisbon Treaty, pending on Irish voting YES on the treaty in Sept or October,” which would give the European Union massive powers over its member nations, essentially making it a supranational regional government, with each country relegated to more of a provincial status.

After the meetings finished, Daniel Estulin reported that, “one of Bilderberg’s primary concerns according to Estulin is the danger that their zeal to reshape the world by engineering chaos in order to implement their long term agenda could cause the situation to spiral out of control and eventually lead to a scenario where Bilderberg and the global elite in general are overwhelmed by events and end up losing their control over the planet.”

On May 21, the Macedonian International News Agency reported that, “a new Kremlin report on the shadowy Bilderberg Group, who this past week held their annual meeting in Greece, states that the West’s financial, political and corporate elite emerged from their conclave after coming to an agreement that in order to continue their drive towards a New World Order dominated by the Western Powers, the US Dollar has to be ‘totally’ destroyed.” Further, this same unconfirmed Kremlin report stated that “most of the West’s wealthiest elite convened at an unprecedented secret meeting in New York called for and led by” David Rockefeller, “to plot the demise of the US Dollar.”

The consensus view was that the recession would get worse, and that recovery would be “relatively slow and protracted,” and to look for these terms in the press over the next weeks and months.

Estulin reported, "that some leading European bankers faced with the specter of their own financial mortality are extremely concerned, calling this high wire act "unsustainable," and saying that US budget and trade deficits could result in the demise of the dollar." One Bilderberger said that "the banks themselves don't know the answer to when (the bottom will be hit)." Everyone appeared to agree, "that the level of capital needed for the American banks may be considerably higher than the US government suggested through their recent stress tests." Further, "someone from the IMF pointed out that its own study on historical recessions suggests that the US is only a third of the way through this current one; therefore economies expecting to recover with resurgence in demand from the US will have a long wait." One attendee stated that, "equity losses in 2008 were worse than those of 1929," and that "the next phase of the economic decline will also be worse than the '30s, mostly because the US economy carries about \$20 trillion of excess debt. Until that debt is eliminated, the idea of a healthy boom is a mirage."

You will agree that there's much food for thought in this report. What goes on behind closed doors continues to set the scene that will lead to the opening of the Fifth Seal and the start of the Great Tribulation. This should fill us with the necessary urgency to get ourselves ready and make sure that we continue to increasingly allow Jesus Christ to confirm us as "pillars in the temple of my God" (Rev. 3:12) and as "kings and priests unto our God" (Rev. 5: 10).

With much love, in Christ's service



Daniel Frendo

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Romans 5:3-4 explains farther: "**And not only so, but we glory in tribulations** (we count it all joy) **also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience...**"

Then we come to the phrase in Rom. 15:4 that has so impacted my mind:

- "...**And the comfort of the scriptures...**"
Patience produces experience in the mercies shown us by the great God of Comfort (II Cor.

1:3) and confidence (faith) in the promises in His Word.

Therefore when we put these scriptures together a formula for HOPE is plainly given: Back to our lead scripture Rom. 15:4: "**For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures** (that develops experience in the Christian life) **might have HOPE...**(Now continue with Rom.5:4-5)... **and experience** (through patience and comfort of the scriptures), **hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.**

This is a spiritual package of comfort that produces HOPE in achieving our goal of becoming Pillars in the very Temple of God—Firstfruits of the Resurrection and the Bride of Jesus Christ. This is a formula of encouragement when we are immersed in temptations, trials, troubles, and tribulations—go to the scriptures for COMFORT. Daily Bible study is vitally necessary to produce JOY even in severe trials! What God promises, He can perform!

I will list a few of the promises that you can absolutely trust in no matter how deep the trial you may be experiencing—you should add others to this list.

- **I will never leave you nor forsake you** (Heb. 13:5).
- **There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it** (I Cor. 10:13).
- **Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God** (II Cor. 1:3-4).
- Read all of Heb. 11 especially verses 33-40. These brethren of old overcame in the severest of trials—we can too—we have the comfort of these scriptures—that they did it through faith in the Word of God. Most of them walked by FAITH and SIGHT. Christ appeared to many of them, or spoke to them audibly, or in a dream or vision. We walk by FAITH and not by SIGHT—but we have the

comfort of the scriptures and the examples of these ancient brethren. God promises he will always make a way of escape for ANY trial we may be thrust into. Remember, we are called to be PILLARS, thus our testing must be under great pressure.

- **The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them** (Psa. 34:7).
- **The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry** (Psa. 34:14).
- **Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases** (Psa 103:2-3).
- **And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover** (Mark 16:17-18).
- **And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose** (Rom. 8:28).

I could go on and on, but you need to continue from this point with your own list. Remember, **“All things written aforetime are for our learning, that through patience and comfort of the scriptures, we have hope.”**

Use this proven formula from the sure Word of God for success in overcoming any trial you may face, illness, unemployment, financial problems, marital problems, or whatever. You do your part—God will do His. Things will get worse before they get better, but you are “programmed” for success. You are a begotten child of God and the affianced Bride of Jesus Christ—and they love us and will never leave us or forsake us! We must never leave nor forsake them! It won't be long now!

“And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen (Rev. 22:12 and 20-22).

The Book of Life - is your name in it?

by Frank Borg

The Book of Life is extensively referred to in the book of Revelation. What is this book? Why does it exist? Do we know God's purpose behind it?

Contrary to popular belief, God is not trying to save the whole world today. He has called a small group of people to be taught and trained as firstfruits now, so they may assist Jesus Christ in the massive task of educating all of mankind in God's ways in the Millennium and beyond.

When an individual is called, repents, believes, is baptized and has his or her sins forgiven, he or she receives an earnest of God's Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38; 2 Corinthians 5:5). At baptism, such a person is begotten as a son of God (Romans 8:14, 16) and, at that point, *has his or her name recorded in the book of life.*

Once baptized, a begotten son of God can expect to be tried, tested and proven. A baptized member is not promised an easy life – in fact, developing Godly character involves lots of hard work, sacrifice and persistence (1 Pet. 1:7; 1 Pet. 4:12). This is the course of a Christian as we individually allow God to mould and shape our character to become like His. God judges the individual (1 Peter 4:17) so He can decipher whether or not he/she will enter into His Kingdom at Christ's return! Firstfruit judgment begins once the individual receives an earnest (or a down payment) of God's Holy Spirit at baptism. God judges His called-out ones during their physical lifetime — He watches to see what His begotten sons are doing with the abundant spiritual knowledge that He has given them! He is now judging His people to see whether or not their choices and actions are worthy of them entering His Kingdom. The responsibility of God's people is heavy, but the reward is awe-inspiring.

Notice what all this has to do with the book of life. Revelation 21:27 clearly tells us that all those individuals who will enter into the Kingdom of God must have their names written in the book of life: "And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life."

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Abraham, Isaac and Jacob will be in the Kingdom of God (Matthew 8:11), so it is clear that their names must be written in the Book of Life. Among others, Moses was another faithful man who has his name written in the Book of Life (Exodus 32:31-32). He realized that having his name in it was vital if he was to enter the Kingdom of God. Other people who have received their title to eternal glory, and who have the right of citizenship in the Kingdom of God, have their names written in the Book of Life (Philippians 4:3).

This very important book has a record of all the names of the saints who will be resurrected, or changed, at Christ's return and who will enter into the Kingdom of God (Rev. 20:12)! *This is the purpose of this book of life.* Those whose names will not be found in the book of life will be cast in the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:15).

Note how Revelation 20:11-12 illustrate that the book of life will be used and have names added to it even during the Great White Throne judgment. God will then offer salvation to the multiple billions who have not yet had the opportunity to know and understand God's truth in this lifetime. The book of life is used by God whenever salvation or eternal life is offered, because this is the book in which the names are recorded of those who are judged worthy of eternal life.

Something we must be cognizant of, however, is that names can be blotted out of the Book of Life! This depends on the individual's conduct during his or her physical lifetime. Those of us in the Church must be careful to ensure that we live our life according to His Word, overcoming and growing spiritually to ensure that we are not deleted from the Book! If a begotten son of God *willfully* rejects God and His ways, he or she commits the unpardonable sin, which results in eternal death (Hebrews 6:4-6; Romans 6:23). Obviously, if an individual commits the unpardonable sin, he or she will no longer be recognized by God as a begotten son of His. In Exodus 32:33, God tells us, "Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book." Clearly, God will only reject those people who reject Him (Ezekiel 18:20) in a willful attitude and are unrepentant. If God's begotten sons willfully reject Him, He will erase their names from the book of life.

Because we are human and still subject to the pulls of the flesh, there will be times when we slip up and commit sin. However, if we show God that we have godly sorrow (2 Corinthians 7:10) for the sin we have committed, and we show Him that we will do our part

to overcome that sin, then God will grant us repentance. In that case, we should not fear having our names blotted out of the Book of Life (Revelation 3:5). If our attitude demonstrates to God that we are working and doing our part to overcome a sin, God will be sure to help us with the problem we are trying to conquer. It all boils down to our attitude!

To help us resist the pulls of the flesh and ensure constant awareness of the importance of continual spiritual growth in our lives, here below are ten questions which we should ask ourselves daily! These questions originally appeared in the Co-Workers Bulletin in Feb. 14th 1941. Entitled "Ten Daily Questions", they were penned by the end-time Elijah, Mr. Herbert Armstrong:

- 1) Did I awake spiritual, in a happy, prayerful attitude, and was I watchful to keep my mind from wandering this morning?
- 2) Have I, this day, kept my mind clean, my thoughts and contemplations on "the things above", in continuous happy, positive, prayerful attitude?
- 3) Have I, partaken three times today of spiritual food, by submissive Bible study and earnest prayer ALONE with GOD? Have I grown closer to GOD? Have I GROWN today in grace and knowledge?
- 4) Have I walked by FAITH, asking GOD for wisdom and guidance in all things, committing every little problem to HIM, trusting HIM with it?
- 5) Have I exercised self-discipline, denying impulse [DENYING PULLS OF THE FLESH], doing what GOD's Word shows I ought to do instead of what I WANTED to do?
- 6) Was my speech and conversation today kind, cheerful, soft?
- 7) Have I exercised patience today? Have I been charitable toward others, showing tolerance and LOVE, or resentment, jealousy and anger?
- 8) Have I, while putting spiritual interests FIRST, been diligent in performing my regular material duties today, doing my VERY BEST?
- 9) Have I made the most of my time, or been weakened by unwatchfulness?
- 10) What have I done today for GOD's Work and for others? Have I spent most of my time today to please myself that could have been saved for GOD's cause?

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The Book of Life typifies salvation. As we have seen, those who will be given entry into God's glorious Kingdom and eternal life will have their names recorded in this Book. How blessed and privileged we are to know and understand the meaning and purpose behind this important Book.

Is your name in it?

God's Faithful Church is Philadelphian—are you?

by John Durrad

Herbert W Armstrong set a wonderful standard of excellence in the Worldwide Church of God. He called it the Philadelphia Standard simply because the Church existed in the Philadelphia Era of God's True Church and the Bible has only praise for those Philadelphian members. Rev 3:7-13

After the death of Mr Armstrong and the subsequent great falling away a remnant group of true Philadelphians members left or were cast out and joined with Mr Gerald Flurry who followed the standard set by Mr Armstrong and started his own group calling it the Philadelphia Church of God.

Because it undoubtedly was God's True Church it should have been obvious that the Lamp-stand had been passed and a new Church era started meaning that Mr Flurry to be correct should have named the Church, the Laodicean Church of God. However, because of the stigma attached to this era Church, Rev 3:14-22, Mr Flurry must have realised that the name Laodicea would not be conducive in attracting new members.

Nevertheless, the PCG was the Laodicean era Church of God, you can call a rose by any other name but it is still a rose!

The growing membership at that time was mainly made up of dedicated diligent members who were certainly practicing the Philadelphia Standard. In no way could you call them lukewarm or Laodicean. Remember all of God's Era Churches started off well, but the Laodicean Church was destined, like most of the others to grow weary in well doing to the point of making God sick of their futile activities, hence the stigma of the name. Not one of the many WCG split-off groups calls themselves the Laodicean Church of God, even the real one is not willing to do that! That is even admitting, which most of them do, that we are in fact in the Laodicean Era.

So, being in the final era of God's Church before the return of Jesus Christ, what does that make us, Philadelphian or Laodicean? It is a good question because the majority of God's Church will be in the latter category.

Please send your Article contributions via e-mail as a Word doc. attachment to:

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The title of this article is, “God’s Faithful Church is Philadelphian – are you?” That is a thought provoking statement not least because the Laodicean Church of God is called the Philadelphia Church of God! That confusion exists with many of God’s people is apparent because of the many groups that now abound. Let Mr Robert Ardis explain from his book, *Set Apart by Truth*.

“At this time, two churches exist – Philadelphia and Laodicea! Christ has only one Work and one faithful Church. The Philadelphia WORK has Not ended, although we have entered the Laodicean phase (or era) of the seven churches, depicted by the seven candlesticks.

These two churches/candlesticks are portrayed immediately before the visible return of Jesus Christ and the First Resurrection. The Philadelphia candlestick did not stop burning at the death of Mr Armstrong as Mr Flurry claims. It is burning brightly today in the Church of God’s Faithful. The Laodicean candlestick was ignited and given to Gerald Flurry four years after Mr Armstrong died (Luke 13:6-9. Mr Flurry took the corporate name of the Philadelphia Church of God, but the fact is that Christ raised up Gerald Flurry as the representative of the LAODICEAN CANDLESTICK – the high priest of Laodicea!” (*Set Apart by Truth*, page 13).

The Philadelphia era of God’s Church set a standard for us to follow until Christ returns. Now, in the Laodicea era most of God’s people have not followed that standard. The basis of this Philadelphia standard was of course the Ten Commandments but Mr Armstrong bought out and established the finer details of the law, for example, the structure of Sabbath services, dress code, hair length and so on.

We knew this was a message sent from God through the end-time Elijah, we knew it was right because we proved it worked!

In 1 Thessalonians chapter five, Paul speaks of the return of Jesus Christ to discern the condition of His Church and admonishes us to watch and be always alert and ready. Verse 21 says this:

“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.”

Prove means, “to try by experiment, to ascertain as fact, by evidence. To test for truth” So we can prove by the evidence whether someone is guilty, or innocent of a crime. We can prove if an electrical appliance is

what we want by testing it. Photographs from space prove that the earth is round, flat earth society notwithstanding! We can prove that the C.G.F has God’s message by the fruits, the evidence given to by the Holy Spirit through God’s Word and the fact we are set apart by truth and we are growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

We must prove all things, and hold on to the truth. The second part of 1 Thessalonians 5:21 says. “hold fast to that which is good.” We don’t have to re-prove what we have already proven to be true. That shows doubt. However we must realise that certain preconceived ideas (not truths) may, in the light of new evidence and knowledge, need be changed.

The problem with the Laodiceans is that they think they are alright, they think they have made it, they do not accept new truth even though it is placed before them. They also have a problem with identity. They don’t know who they really are; they don’t even know where the Laodicean Church is today.

Surely in the final era of God’s Church history a true church member should be aware of where the era Church is and who the human head is?

God’s message during the Laodicean era must come from those that have not become lukewarm, not given up on accepting new truth, and those that accept Jesus Christ as the Head of the Church and not a man!

“Behold I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.” Rev 3:20

The Laodicean door is being knocked on by Jesus Christ working through a group of remnant Philadelphians in the Church Of God’s Faithful.

Two churches exist together at this end-time. Two very different attitudes are extant in the Church. We call these attitudes Philadelphian and Laodicean because of the final two eras. God has much praise for the Philadelphians, but not one good thing to say about the Laodiceans. He says this of them, “I know your works...” “They do have works, the problem is, they are not good works.

To which group do you belong? Nobody wants to be labelled a Laodicean, but are you sure you know where you stand? You need to know what kind of Christian you are, in God’s sight!

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God promises his True people protection during the great tribulation. Will you qualify to receive that protection? Or will you wake up – too late – to discover you have been in a lukewarm spiritual condition? We are in the Laodicean era and some of these traits may have rubbed off on us. We need to know what God expects of us as Philadelphian Christians.

Christ said, “You shall know them by their fruits” Any church is the sum total of its membership. If the individuals are lukewarm, the whole church will be that way. If the individuals making up the Church are lacking in love, then the whole Church will be cold. Revelation chapter three describes in graphic detail the condition of the Laodicean Church. The Philadelphia Church is also described in Revelation three.

Since the Philadelphia Church is made up of many members then individual members will have that same description! Do you fit this description? We will examine the description of a Philadelphian in Revelation three and see if the description fits yourself – it should!

“I have set before you an open door”

The CGF has works, fruits. So must we. We are very small, but already God has opened many doors for us to produce some fine literature - fifteen hard-hitting true and factual booklets, a weekly news report, fortnightly and monthly magazines. Also a web site and of course sermon CD's.

To put this on a personal level, each one of us has an important function in this work. As 1 Corinthians 12 shows, we all have gifts of the Holy Spirit. We cannot all give sermons, write articles or be in the ministry, but we all can pray fervently each day for the work. Of course some do write articles and that is to be commended. We also can support the work with tithes and offerings; we can fast, so that we might grow closer to God, and that we might be used more in the work.

“Again the Kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.” Matt 13:44

Our continual concern and interest in this work, the measure of zeal that we have towards God's Work, our dedication to God's Work, shows God how much we

care about our part in speaking the truth to our brethren and to the world.

Are we preparing for greater service in this Work? These fruits set us apart from the Church of Laodicea. A lack of these fruits could show that we are a part of Laodicea! That should shock us! God has given each one of us our “open door.” We must be walking through and forging ahead with growth in our individual lives.

“We have a little strength”

Notice that the Laodicean Church says, “I am rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing” Rev 3:17. Mr Gerald Flurry fulfilled this prophecy when he exclaimed at a ministerial conference, “We have it all, we have it all!” He also made great store over his headquarters location in Edmond, saying proudly that “Edmond means protector of the wealth”

However in reality, God's people are weak. “For you see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.” 1 Cor 1:26

We are also very few in number, and when we compare ourselves with men such as Abraham, Moses and Noah, we certainly have a little strength. This Church realises that of itself it can do nothing! Jesus said that He could do nothing by Himself; it was the Father that worked through him. If Christ could do nothing, certainly we can do less than nothing – by ourselves! We should realise how weak, helpless, lacking, and in need of God's Holy Spirit we are. Notice what Paul said:

“And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffer me, lest I should be exalted above measure....Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.” 2 Cor 12:7, 10.

We can be strong in Christ. Without God's Holy Spirit we have little strength. We should know that. It will force us to rely on God, to cry out to Him for help to do this Work we have been called individually and collectively to do.

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“We have kept His Word”

This means to do what He has commanded in preaching and keeping His Law. Christ said that if we love Him, and that means we must also love one another, we will keep His Words. John 14:23 Remember Jesus Christ is the Word or Spokesman through whom God inspired the whole Bible. The Philadelphians are praised for closely guarding or holding fast to God’s Word.

But keepings God’s Word involves more than just watching our Bibles. God expects us to protect His Truth and teachings within the Church. Remember we are set apart by truth John 17:17. The CGF is founded on the truth.

“But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the Church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.” 1 Tim 3:15

God’s True Church is founded upon the truth taught by the Old Testament prophets, the apostles and of course Jesus Christ. We must be pillars that support the truth! Eph 2:19-20

On a personal or individual level we keep his word by searching and seeking His Will. We do this by making Bible study part of our daily lives. We need to know God’s Word to keep them!

“We have not denied His Name”

The name of a person represents or is the person. If we deny the name of Jesus Christ then we deny Him. How do we deny Him, by verbally saying “I deny Christ?” Well yes, but it means much more than that.

“They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.” Titus 1:16

We deny Jesus Christ if we have the wrong works or deeds. Christ rules us through God’s Word; He has authority in every aspect of our lives. Christ also rules us through His Church. That means through those He has placed in authority. Christ has not allowed for independent Christians all doing their own work. All of us must come under authority.

“Obey them that have the rule over you and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and

not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.” Heb 13:17

One of Christ’s names is Lord. That means He is our boss. Philadelphians do not deny Christ’s name because they come under His authority.

“You have kept the word of my patience”

Philadelphians have kept God’s Word with the same patience that Christ had. We very much need patience.

“For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.” Heb 10:36

All the promises of God are to the overcomer who endures patiently all the hardships and difficulties of life unto the end, never giving up. Matt 24:13. What we are today does not prove what we shall be tomorrow. God’s Church is patient, enduring trials and tribulations. As individuals we must do the same. A true Philadelphian does not give up – ever!

“We have the promise of protection”

God promises to protect His people, now, and in the future. Do we believe this? Many prophecies show the vast majority of the people of Israel are going to be destroyed. Unrepentant Laodiceans will suffer terribly in the Great Tribulation. Are you in a Laodicean or a Philadelphian attitude? It should be easy for us to believe that Jesus Christ will keep those faithful Philadelphians from this great time of trouble because of their diligence to God’s Law and their patient enduring of their trials.

“Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.” Rev 3:10

“We are told to hold fast”

Our crown of righteousness can be lost. The last warning to the Philadelphia era was to let no man take your crown. This admonition was given just before Christ began to warn the Laodicean Church. It seems that many Laodiceans are going to allow a man to take their reward, and some will even lose their crown, their eternal life!

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Some years ago a member of the PCG said he would travel across the entire country to be with other PCG members on the Sabbath day. Another member after leaving the WCG and coming into the PCG said he would follow the truth and Jesus Christ no matter what it cost. Then a PCG minister said incredibly that he would follow Mr Flurry even if he knew he was wrong –A minister! These three examples are still languishing in the Laodicean Church as we, the CGF continue to warn them to let no man take their crown. After 12 years of the Day of the Lord one sadly has to consider if there could be any Philadelphians in the Laodicean Church!

Alright so holding fast is difficult when we are in a severe trial. We sometimes think that Christ is slow to respond to our needs, slow in coming to our aid. So what does Christ tell us? He says, “Behold I come quickly.” We really only have to endure for a few years. Consider the hundreds of years that such men as Enoch, Noah, Abraham and many others remained faithful to God. Our few years are short in comparison.

So endure to the end. Hold fast. Do not become lukewarm. Remain always hot for God’s Word – a boiling kettle needs power to keep it boiling - we have available power to enable us to hold on to our crown – make sure you use that power!

“Overcomers will become pillars in the temple”

It is talking about positions of authority in the Kingdom of God. The very elect Philadelphians have a special part in the headquarters government. They will be with Jesus Christ at Jerusalem. Mr Ardis wrote in Set apart by Truth:

“Consider at this point: these scriptures in Revelation 3 are written for those who are the chosen and faithful PILLARS living today... The PILLARS are those who have remained FAITHFUL. They are promised protection from the Great Tribulation and will have the exalted position of STANDING in the presence of God and Christ always.” S.A.T page 28

“We shall go no more out”

Again this is talking about rulership: this time forever! We will never be removed from this reward and responsibly:

“And behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.” Rev 22:12

“We will have the name of God written upon us.”

That means we are then born into His very family. We will be God, just as Christ is now God. The Philadelphians will become a special part of the God Family. Repentant Laodiceans are not precluded from this, that is becoming a Philadelphian and being part of the first resurrection, but they need to act now, or suffer in the Great Tribulation before repenting and then dying to await the return of Jesus Christ.

“Those who overcome by giving their lives in the Tribulation, along with the righteous dead from all ages of time, will be raised to eternal life at the sound of the Last Trumpet. Also, in the “twinkling of an eye,” those Faithful kept secure in the Place of Safety will be changed from flesh to spirit. Indeed, the Sanctuary will be cleansed from every spot, wrinkle, or blemish. All of us, as the Firstfruits, shall become Gods in the Family of God – on the Day of Firstfruits – Pentecost!” Mr Robert Ardis, Whoso Reads Let Him Understand, page 38.

“We will live in New Jerusalem”

The name of the City of God will also be written on us. We will have the blessing of living in the very city called New Jerusalem, where God the Father will dwell forever!

“We will have a new name”

We will have the name of God. It will be a new name given in marriage. This Church is to be a part of the Bride of Christ. A bride always takes the name of her husband. When we become married to Jesus Christ we will then share His Name!

Revelation chapter 3 gives the description of two main attitudes existing in God’s Church at this end time, Philadelphian and Laodicean. To which do you belong? Look at your fruits.

Philadelphia is a Greek derived name which comes from two Greek words:

PHILOS: Loving or dear
ADELPHOS: Brother

When put together these two words literally mean Brother-loving. Philadelphians first of all love God.

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One of the proofs that they love God is that they love also their fellow men, and especially those of the household of faith. Gal 6:10

The CGF continues to petition our brethren in the many split-off groups with urgent requests to look into the many new truths that have been given to the CGF. Why? Because we are Philadelphian and we love them. Unfortunately, because of a harsh no-contact ruling by the P.C.G they remain cut-off from the truth because they choose to follow the dictates of a man, and have closed their minds to new truths.

By allowing themselves to follow a man they are increasingly neglectful of the Word of God and develop a ho-hum, take it or leave it attitude to the wonderful truth of God when it is presented to them. The Bible classes them as Laodicean, or lukewarm, and in fact it gets so bad that they are prepared to betray and even hate their brethren because of their attitude.

“And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.” Matt 24:10 Verse 12 says that the love, Philadelphia love, Agape love, of many, shall wax cold. This attitude is a Laodicean attitude – what are you Laodicean – or Philadelphian?

As a Philadelphian we need to constantly raise our game! Make sure you are in a position to be able to fellowship as often as possible. If that is not possible then keep in contact by writing or phoning other brethren. Remember also to pray for all those with God’s Holy Spirit and not just those in the CGF.

Be careful in conversation. Never use profanity of any sort. Even so-called minor swear words are not acceptable. Do not use common or vulgar language. Men be gentlemen, ladies be ladies! True Philadelphians will be constantly raising their standard in all aspects of life. Look at your fruits. Are you growing? Is your whole life, your heart behind this Work of the Living God administered through the CGF? Are you yielded to His Government, His Authority over your life? Are you aware of your own personal weaknesses? Are you asking God for His help in overcoming, growing and serving others? Are you really looking forward to the blessings and rewards God has for His faithful servants?

We know that tough times are coming. We are going to need each other to get through the times ahead.

“But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.” 1 Pet 4:7-8

We need to build more brotherly love in the CGF. We are living in relatively easy times now. If we cannot resolve our problems and differences now, how will we be able to resolve them under the more difficult stresses and strains that are coming?

It is not easy to be a Philadelphian Christian. But that is what God wants us to be. Don’t let someone else steal your crown. You can know where you stand by the fruits being produced. If it is evident by your fruits that you are not a part of the CGF then repent, change your ways before it is too late. Ask God to give you the love which the True Church of brotherly love has!

Keep Christ’s Words. Don’t deny His name, endure to the end. Don’t let your Spiritual zeal grow lukewarm. Don’t let spiritual pride overthrow you. Don’t let vanity deceive you. Read the warning by the Apostle Paul to the Corinthians. 1 Cor 10:1-12

As members of the CGF, God does expect us to live by high standards. God’s Church, the Church of God’s Faithful, is Philadelphian. The question you need to ask yourself is...ARE YOU?