

***Taking the God-ordained Pathway for the Church—the Way of Philadelphia—according to the Lord's Up-to-date and Ultimate Recovery to Bring Us into a New Revival to Turn the Age*****Monday 2/27****Related Verses****2 Pet. 1:12**

12 Therefore I will be ready always to remind you concerning these things, even though you know them and have been established in the present truth.

**Rev. 2:7**

7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.

**Matt. 16:18**

18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

**Eph. 5:25-27**

25 Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her

26 That He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word,

27 That He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish.

**Eph. 1:17**

17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the full knowledge of Him,

**Rev. 21:10**

10 And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

**Related Reading**

[In 2 Peter 1:12] the “present truth” can also be rendered the “up-to-date truth.”...Actually, all the truths are in the Bible...Although they are all in the Bible, through man’s foolishness, unfaithfulness, negligence, and disobedience many of the truths were lost and hidden from man. The truths were there, but man did not see them or touch them. Not until the fullness of time did God release certain truths during particular periods of time and cause them to be revealed once more.

These freshly revealed truths are not God’s new inventions. Rather, they are man’s new discoveries...In past generations God revealed different truths. During certain periods of time, He caused men to discover these specific truths. We can see this clearly from the history of the church. (CWWN, vol. 11, “What Are We?” pp. 843-844)

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Take, for example, the raising up of Martin Luther in the sixteenth century. God opened his eyes to see the matter of justification by faith...The fact already existed before Luther’s time. Luther was merely the one who realized this truth in a stronger way; he was particularly outstanding in this truth. For this reason, this truth became the “present truth” in that age.

Every worker of the Lord should inquire before God as to what the present truth is...Although there are many major and crucial truths in the Bible, what we need to know is God’s present truth.

We know that God’s truths are cumulative; later truths do not negate earlier ones. All the past truths of God form the foundation of the truths today. What we see today are the cumulative revelations of God. When God opens our eyes to see this fact, we begin to realize that we are living in the tide of God’s will. This tide is a continuation of all the past works of God in previous ages.

From 1926 on, we began to release many messages concerning salvation, the church, and the cross, and we testified much concerning these things. By 1927 we concentrated our attention on the subjective work of the cross. We saw that concerning the cross, there is not only the truth concerning Christ’s death, but there is also the fact of resurrection. In the past the resurrection which we preached was mainly a matter of faith; it was not related to our experience. What we speak of today is resurrection as a principle of life. It is not just a doctrine but a spiritual fact. It is like a grain of wheat that dies and brings forth many grains; it is the principle of resurrection. After this, God showed us what the Body of Christ is and where the reality of this Body is.

As Paul said, “Neither did I receive it from man” (Gal. 1:12). In the same way, we can say that although we

have received help from our brothers, these revelations were not received from man. We received help from Luther, Zinzendorf, the Moravian Brethren, and the Keswick messages. Today we believe that God’s ultimate goal is to have Christ as everything...I believe that God has only one work today. It is the message of Colossians 1:18 which says that God desires to see Christ have the first place in all things. The basis of everything is the death, the resurrection, and the ascension of Christ. Other than Christ, there is no spiritual reality. This is God’s “present truth.”

We thank God that we can touch God’s grand purpose. We need to humble and prostrate ourselves and to deny ourselves. We need to be clear that our work today is not just to save some souls or to help others become spiritual...Thank God that we can know God’s “present truth.” May God be gracious to us so that we do not become the castaways of the “present truth.” (CWWN, vol. 11, “What Are We?” pp. 844, 856-858)

Further Reading: CWWN, vol. 11, “What Are We?”

**Corporate Reading: *The Life-study of Romans*, msg. 1, section(s): A Foreword; The Position of Romans (through “This Romance in the Old Testament”)**

**Tuesday 2/28****Related Verses****Rev. 3:8**

8 I know your works; behold, I have put before you an opened door which no one can shut, because you have a little power and have kept My word and have not denied My name.

**1 Tim. 1:3-4**

3 Even as I exhorted you, when I was going into Macedonia, to remain in Ephesus in order that you might charge certain ones not to teach different things

4 Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God’s economy, which is in faith.

**Titus 1:9**

9 Holding to the faithful word, which is according to the teaching of the apostles, that he may be able both to exhort by the healthy teaching and to convict those who oppose.

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**Col. 2:19**

19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.

**Psa. 119:1**

1 Blessed are those whose way is perfect, Who walk in the law of Jehovah.

**Eph. 6:17-18**

17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,  
18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,

**John 14:23**

23 Jesus answered and said to him, If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make an abode with him.

**Related Reading**

According to His heart’s desire, God made His eternal economy (1 Tim. 1:4b; Eph. 1:10; 3:9) to make man the same as He is in life and nature but not in His Godhead and to make Himself one with man and man one with Him, thus to be enlarged and expanded in His expression, that all His divine attributes may be expressed in human virtues.

God carries out His eternal economy through a number of steps. First, He created man in His image and according to His likeness (Gen. 1:26-27). Then God became a man...in His incarnation to partake of the human nature (Heb. 2:14a). He lived a human life to express His attributes through man’s virtues. He died an all-inclusive death and resurrected to produce the firstborn Son of God and become the life-giving Spirit (Rom. 8:29; Acts 13:33; 1 Cor. 15:45). This was all for Him to dispense Himself into His chosen people to regenerate them with Himself as their life for producing many sons—many God-men (1 Pet. 1:3)—for the forming of the churches with His many sons and for the building up of the Body of Christ with His brothers as the members to be the organism of the processed and consummated Triune God, consummating in the New Jerusalem as His eternal enlargement and expression.

We have to be controlled by the vision of God’s economy. We should not speak anything other than God’s economy [cf. 1 Tim. 1:3-4]. (CWWL, 1994-1997, vol. 3, “The Ten Great Critical ‘Ones’ for the Building Up of the Body of Christ,” pp. 161-162)

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In these seven epistles in Revelation 2 and 3, the striking point of the churches’ degradation was three kinds of teachings: the teaching of Balaam, a Gentile prophet (2:14); the teaching of the Nicolaitans to build the hierarchy (v. 15); and the teaching of the woman, the so-called prophetess, Jezebel, full of heresies and fornication (v. 20). These three kinds of teachings crept in because the churches left the teaching of the apostle [cf. 2 Tim. 1:15 and footnote 2].

In 1 Timothy 1:3 and 6:3 Paul warns not to teach differently. The saints should teach according to Paul’s teaching. Those in Asia definitely turned away from Paul’s teaching [cf. 2 Tim. 1:15], and the result of this turning away was that they received three kinds of heretical teachings...Within thirty years after Paul’s final Epistle to Timothy, these churches had reached such a point of degradation. It is dangerous to leave or turn away from the apostle’s teaching, from the apostle’s proper revelation.

One church was unique and was highly appraised by the Lord—the church in Philadelphia. The Lord highly appraised them and even appreciated them because they kept the word (Rev. 3:8). This means that they did not turn away from the apostle’s proper teaching. Although they were weak, the Lord still appraised them highly, telling them that they had a little power and that they had kept His word.

To turn away from the proper teaching is a terrible thing that will result in degradation and in picking up other teachings...I hope that all the church people in the recovery would not be followers of those in Asia who turned away from Paul’s ministry. Rather, I hope that we would follow the pattern of the church in Philadelphia—keeping the Lord’s word even though we only have a little strength. Let us keep the word of the Lord, which is to remain in the teachings of the apostle, to remain in the healthy words, to remain in the unique revelation from

the Lord with the proper leadership. Then we are safe. (CWWL, 1986, vol. 1, “Elders’ Training, Book 7: One Accord for the Lord’s Move,” pp. 173-174)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1986, vol. 1, “Elders’ Training, Book 7: One Accord for the Lord’s Move,” ch. 8

**Corporate Reading: *The Life-study of Romans*, msg. 1, section(s): This Romance in the New Testament**

**Wednesday 3/1**

**Related Verses**

**Rev. 3:7**

7 And to the messenger of the church in Philadelphia write: These things says the Holy One, the true One, the One who has the key of David, the One who opens and no one will shut, and shuts and no one opens:

**Gal. 2:20**

20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

**Col. 2:16-17**

16 Let no one therefore judge you in eating and in drinking or in respect of a feast or of a new moon or of the Sabbath,

17 Which are a shadow of the things to come, but the body is of Christ.

**Matt. 17:5, 8**

5 While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is My Son, the Beloved, in whom I have found My delight. Hear Him!

8 And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus Himself alone.

**Col. 3:10-11**

10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

**Related Reading**

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Christ is...the Steward in the house of God, typified by Eliakim [Isa. 22:20-24]...The Lord Jesus [also] referred to Himself as the One who has the key of David in Revelation 3:7. He is the One who holds the key of the house of David. The house is the place where a person keeps all his precious things...Isaiah 39:2 records how Hezekiah showed the Babylonian visitors his treasury, which literally means “the house of his precious things.” The house of David was a treasury...Christ is the One who has the key to the house of David. (*Life-study of Isaiah*, p. 289)

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God...fired Shebna, a steward in the house of the king (Isa. 22:15), and replaced him with Eliakim, a type of Christ (vv. 20-24; Rev. 3:7).

In the entire universe everything in God's house and outside God's house should be fired and replaced with Christ. The nations, the steward, and all the bowls and jars in the king's house needed to be replaced. God replaced all of them with Immanuel. He replaced everyone and everything with Christ. This is the reason Christ is unveiled as a Father, a Steward, a throne of glory, and a peg (a nail) driven into a sure place (a wall), on which hang all the utensils and vessels—all the things that belong to God for His people to enjoy Him. Here we see that whatever or whoever is not Christ, God fires.

We need to see that when God created us, He hired us, and that when He put us on the cross, crucifying us with Christ, He fired us...God fired everyone on the cross, and He is replacing everyone with Christ [cf. Gal. 2:20].

After God's firing and replacing of everyone and everything with Christ, there will first be the restoration for the kingdom, and then there will be the restoration for the new heaven and new earth for the New Jerusalem...The real church life is a life in which all the saints are fired and replaced with Christ. This will make Christ everything in the church. This is the vision of God's economy hidden in Isaiah 1—23.

Because Christ joined Himself to us, uniting Himself with us, when He died on the cross, we died with Him and were terminated (Rom. 6:6).

In the New Testament, Christ's replacing of us is altogether a matter of a grafted life. This grafted life is the highlight of God's salvation in John 15. Christ is the vine, and we are the branches (v. 5). As wild olive branches, we have been grafted into Christ (Rom. 11:17). Thus, we are united with Christ, and in this union Christ replaces us. He replaces us by living in us, with us, by us, and through us. We live, yet not we, but Christ lives in us, and we live by the faith of the Son of God. This indicates a union with Christ.

God, who had hired everyone, eventually fired everyone that He might replace everyone with Christ. When everyone and everything is replaced with Christ, Christ becomes everything.

In Isaiah, everything is fired, discharged by God, and then the discharging God comes in to replace everything with Christ. This is Paul's concept in Colossians 2:16 and 17...Here Paul is telling us that our food and drink, feasts, new moons, and Sabbaths are all shadows of Christ. Christ, therefore, is the replacement of all the things in God's Old Testament economy.

On the one hand, we are fired, and on the other hand, we are not expelled, for Christ comes to live in us, with us, by us, and through us. This is Immanuel replacing everything and being everything in God's economy. (*Life-study of Isaiah*, pp. 87-89)

Further Reading: *Life-study of Isaiah*, msgs. 13, 42; *CWWN*, vol. 47, “The Orthodoxy of the Church,” chs. 7-9

**Corporate Reading: *The Life-study of Romans*, msg. 1, section(s): The Old Testament as a Prediction**

<b>Thursday 3/2</b>
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**Related Verses**

**Isa. 22:22**

22 And I will set the key of the house of David upon his shoulder - When he opens, no one will shut; When he shuts, no one will open.

**Eph. 3:8**

8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel

**2 Cor. 2:10**

10 But whom you forgive anything, I also forgive; for also what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, it is for your sake in the person of Christ;

**Rom. 10:12**

12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord is Lord of all and rich to all who call upon Him;

**Col. 3:16**

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to God.

**Matt. 5:3**

3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of the heavens.

**Matt 16:24-25**

24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

25 For whoever wants to save his soul-life shall lose it; but whoever loses his soul-life for My sake shall find it.

**1 Cor. 2:9**

9 But as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard and which have not come up in man's heart; things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

**Related Reading**

God's household is the greatest house in the universe, including all the believers throughout the ages. In this vast divine household, Christ is the unique Steward. He takes care of God's household in every way to serve us...The all-inclusive Christ, as typified by Eliakim, is also the One upon whose shoulder the key of (the treasury of) the house of God...is set...Second Samuel 7:16 indicates that David's house was for his kingdom. Today God's house is for God's kingdom. The church is God's house (1 Tim. 3:15), and the church is also the kingdom of God (Matt. 16:18-19; Rom. 14:17)...When the church as the house of God is adequately built up, the church is manifested as the kingdom of God. (*Life-study of Isaiah*, pp. 291-292)

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Christ today holds the key of this house, this kingdom. Isaiah 22:22 says that Jehovah would set the key of the house of David upon Eliakim's shoulder...The key that God has put on the shoulder of Christ is a great one. Such a big key indicates that the door which it opens is big and thick. Such a door would be a stronghold to protect and keep the treasures of the house of God...The treasures today in the house of God are all the riches of Christ.

According to Isaiah 22, Shebna was "fired" and replaced by Eliakim as the steward over the king's house. Darby said that Shebna typifies a false Christ. He should be removed and replaced by Christ. Christ should not be replaced by us. Instead, we should be replaced by Christ. All of us are "Shebnas" who should be removed and replaced by the real Eliakim...We should not allow anything or anyone, including ourselves, to replace Christ. We need to be replaced by Christ. He Himself must be everything in us and to us.

Christ has a big key to open the treasury of all His riches. When He opens the treasury, no one will shut. When He shuts the treasury, no one will open. Christ is the One who can open up to us all the riches of God embodied in Him. He can also shut the door to these riches. Sometimes we experience the door of the divine treasures being open to us to flood into us. But at other times we may do something to offend the Lord. Then we have the sensation that the door is shut and that the riches coming to us are stopped. His opening and His shutting are all for one thing—the enjoyment of His riches as the treasure.

I believe the direct application of Isaiah 22:22 is this—Christ has the key to control the door of God's treasury, in which are the riches of God in Christ for our enjoyment. We have experienced both His opening of these riches to us and His shutting up of these riches. When He shuts up these riches, we have the feeling of being dried up or inwardly deprived. Our experience indicates that Christ is the One who has the key to all of His riches. (Life-study of Isaiah, pp. 292-295)

We all have to contact the Lord, to fellowship with Him, to touch Him.

The most spiritual person is the one who remains in the touch with the Lord the most.

We need to pray, "Lord, I just come to touch You. I have nothing to ask of You. I do not even like to ask You to do anything for me. I just like to remain in the touch with You. I do have some burden to pray for Your recovery, for Your interest, yet I do not like to do it. I just like to remain in this touch." (CWWL, 1980, vol. 1, "Perfecting Training," pp. 338-340)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1980, vol. 1, "Perfecting Training," ch. 33; The Conclusion of the New Testament, msg. 238; Life-study of Revelation, msgs. 15-16

**Corporate Reading: *The Life-study of Romans*, msg. 1, section(s):** The New Testament, the Fulfillment...

<b>Friday 3/3</b>
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**Related Verses**

**Rev. 3:12**

12 He who overcomes, him I will make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall by no means go out anymore, and I will write upon him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which descends out of heaven from My God, and My new name.

**Rev 2:17**

17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give of the hidden manna, and to him I will give a white stone, and upon the stone a new name written, which no one knows except him who receives it.

**John 3:29-30**

29 He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices with joy because of the bridegroom's voice. This joy of mine therefore is made full.

30 He must increase, but I must decrease.

**1 Cor. 3:16**

16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

**Rom. 8:2**

2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.

**Luke 18:27**

27 But He said, The things that are impossible with men are possible with God.

**Related Reading**

In [Revelation 3:7], the introductory word in the epistle to the church in Philadelphia, the most difficult term for the teachers of the Bible to understand is *the key of David*. This key is used by the Lord to open the door for His recovered church. Today it is also used by the Lord for us, the seekers and lovers of the Lord in His recovery, to have an opened door not only for the spread of the recovery in an objective way but also for us to become a white stone (2:17) and pillars that are built into the temple of God and bear three names—the name of God, the name of the city of God, and the Lord's new name (3:12). The temple, the house of God, refers first to the church in the present age (1 Cor. 3:16-17; 1 Tim. 3:15)...Eventually, in eternity the temple will become the New Jerusalem. The house of God is the church for God's dwelling today, which will consummate in the New Jerusalem as both the tabernacle and temple of God for His dwelling in eternity (Rev. 21:3, 22). (CWWL, 1994-1997, vol. 4, p. 73)

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What is the way for us to become a white stone and a pillar that is built into the house of God?...*The name of My God* indicates that the pillar is God; *the name of the city of My God* indicates that the pillar is the New Jerusalem; and *My new name* indicates that the pillar is Christ in a new significance. The overcomer as a pillar becomes God (in life and in nature but not in the Godhead), the New Jerusalem, and Christ in a new experiential sense. In ourselves we have no way to carry this out. However, the Lord Jesus has the way; that is, He has the key...He is the key for us to be transformed into white stones and to be built into the house of God, which is the church today and the New Jerusalem in eternity.

A loving seeker of the Lord can become one who bears the name of God, the name of the New Jerusalem, and the new name of Christ. This means that he becomes

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God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead, and he also becomes the New Jerusalem and Christ in a new sense. By ourselves this is impossible, but the One who has the key of David has the way.

God created man in His own image and according to His own likeness in order that man may express God, and He gave man the authority to rule over all things (Gen. 1:26). Through the fall man lost the way to fulfill God’s purpose...However, David found the way to fulfill God’s purpose in figure. He defeated all the enemies and gained the ground to build the temple, the house of God. Because God gave the key of authority to David, it is called “the key of David.” Then David had a descendant, Christ, who inherited this key. Today Christ is the real David (Matt. 12:3-4), to whom God has given the key of authority (28:18). He and only He has the unique key to open the door for His recovery that no one can shut.

The Lord has the key to subjectively make us not only white stones but also pillars built into the house of God as those who are parts of God, of the New Jerusalem, and of Christ in a new sense.

If we read the outlines of [the high peak] truths, we can see that they give us a key that opens the way to make us a part of God, of the New Jerusalem, and of the new Christ. We need to pray-read these outlines, study and investigate them, memorize and recite them, and prophesy with them. As a result, there will be an open door for us to enter into the reality, that is, to become a part of God, of the New Jerusalem, and of Christ.

The New Jerusalem is the consummated God and the new Christ...This Christ is the One in the four Gospels who has been increased, enlarged, and multiplied to be a corporate Body, which will consummate in the New Jerusalem. (CWWL, 1994-1997, vol. 4, pp. 73-75)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1994-1997, vol. 4, pp. 73-77

**Corporate Reading:** *The Life-study of Romans*, msg. 1, section(s): The Sections of Romans

**Saturday 3/4**

**Related Verses**

**Rev. 3:8, 18**

8 I know your works; behold, I have put before you an opened door which no one can shut, because you have a little power and have kept My word and have not denied My name.

18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined by fire that you may be rich, and white garments that you may be clothed and that the shame of your nakedness may not be manifested, and eyesalve to anoint your eyes that you may see.

**Rom. 10:9-10**

9 That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

10 For with the heart there is believing unto righteousness, and with the mouth there is confession unto salvation.

**1 John 4:19-21**

19 We love because He first loved us.

20 If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.

21 And this commandment we have from Him, that he who loves God love his brother also.

**Matt. 20:26-27**

26 It shall not be so among you; but whoever wants to become great among you shall be your servant,

27 And whoever wants to be first among you shall be your slave;

**Related Reading**

While we estimate the church in Philadelphia very highly, the Lord says that she had “a little power.” What pleases the Lord is not that we are strong, but that we use our little power to do the best we can. Do not try to be strong...Simply spend what you have received from Him. Do not usurp the Lord’s grace...Even the least among us has received a certain amount of grace from Him. You must spend that grace, using it to do your best. If you do this, the Lord will appreciate you and say, “Good. You have a little power, yet you have kept My word with the power you have.”...The Lord is not happy with giants; He is happy with the little ones who have an amount of grace. Although that grace may be limited in its capacity,

as long as we use it, spending it to do as much as we can to keep the Lord’s word, He will be pleased. (*Life-study of Revelation*, p. 186)

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Once Philadelphia fails, it becomes Laodicea.

Laodicea is a distorted Philadelphia. When brotherly love is gone, Philadelphia immediately turns into the opinions of many. This is the meaning of the word Laodicea.

As soon as Philadelphia becomes degraded, the “brothers” become the “many people,” and its “brotherly love” becomes “the opinions of the many.” Love has degenerated into opinion. Brotherly love is something living, but the opinion of many people is something dead. When brotherly love is lost, the Body relationship is lost. The fellowship of life is cut off as well, leaving only the opinion of men. The opinion of the Lord is lost, and the only things left are the vote of the majority, ballots, and the show of hands. Once Philadelphia falls, it becomes Laodicea.

If you want to continue in the way of Philadelphia, remember to humble yourselves before God...God’s blessing is with us, but we must be careful when we say this. As soon as we are not careful, we have the flavor of Laodicea: “We are wealthy and have become rich and have need of nothing.”

Please bear in mind that we have nothing that we have not received. Those around us may be full of death, but we do not need to be conscious of the fact that we are full of life. Those around us may be poor, but we do not need to be conscious of the fact that we are rich. Those who live before the Lord will not be conscious of their own riches. May the Lord be merciful to us that we may learn to live before Him. May we be rich and yet not know that we are rich. It was better for Moses not to know that his face was shining, even though it did shine! Once a person knows himself, he becomes Laodicea, and the result is lukewarmness. Laodicea means to know everything, but in reality to be fervent about nothing. In name it has everything, but it cannot sacrifice its life for anything. It remembers its former glory but forgets its present condition before God. Formerly, it was Philadelphia; today it is Laodicea. (CWWN, vol. 50,

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"Messages for Building Up New Believers (3)," pp. 783-786)

[Those in Laodicea] must have living faith; otherwise, God's Word is useless to them. Their failure, their weakness, is due to the fact that their faith is gone. Peter says that gold proved by fire is faith on trial (1 Pet. 1:7)...You must have faith that mingles with the words you have heard. You must pass through all manner of trials so that the words which you have heard will be useful in a practical way. Thus, you must buy gold tried in the fire. You must learn to trust even while in tribulation; then you will really be rich. (CWWN, vol. 47, "The Orthodoxy of the Church," pp. 86-87)

Further Reading: CWWN, vol. 50, "Messages for Building Up New Believers (3)," ch. 45

**Corporate Reading:** *The Life-study of Romans*, msg. 1, section(s): The Major Structures of Romans

<b>Lord's Day 3/5</b>
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**Related Verses**

**Col. 3:10-17**

**10** And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

**11** Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

**12** Put on therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, inward parts of compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, long-suffering;

**13** Bearing one another and forgiving one another, if anyone should have a complaint against anyone; even as the Lord forgave you, so also should you forgive.

**14** And over all these things put on love, which is the uniting bond of perfectness.

**15** And let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts, to which also you were called in one Body; and be thankful.

**16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to God.

**17** And whatever you do in word or in deed, do all things in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

**Further Reading:**

CWWN, vol. 11, "What Are We?"  
CWWN, vol. 50, "Messages for Building Up New Believers (3)," ch. 45

**5** Hallelujah, out of heaven,  
Comes the New Jerusalem:  
Gates of pearl and walls of jasper,  
Mingled with each precious gem.  
Philadelphia, Philadelphia,  
Has become His Bride so dear.  
Now the Spirit in the churches  
Speaks to all who have an ear.

**Hymns, #1275**

**1** Glorious things of thee are spoken,  
Philadelphia, church of love.  
These things saith the One who's holy,  
He who's real speaks from above;  
He that has the key of David,  
Who the kingdom's entrance won,  
"I will open, no man shutteth" —  
He has spoken; it is done.

**2** Hallelujah, Philadelphia,  
Thine are works that please the Lord.  
Strength thou hast, though just a little  
And hast kept His living Word.  
Thou His holy name denied not,  
But confessed it here below —  
Lo, a door is set before thee,  
Through which none but thee can go.

**3** Thou, beloved Philadelphia,  
Dost His Word of patience keep.  
From the hour of trial He'll save thee,  
Which o'er all the world shall sweep.  
Troublers too shall know He loves thee;  
They to thee must then bow down.  
"Hold thou fast, for I come quickly,  
That no man may take thy crown."

**4** Hallelujah, overcomers,  
"In the temple of My God,  
I will build them in as pillars,  
Nevermore to go abroad."  
God's own name is written on them  
And the new name of the Lord.  
With the triune God they're blended;  
They're the city of our God.