



REVELATION 29 – PHILADELPHIA: LOVE'S LOYALTY

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Revelation 3:11-13

I AM IS COMING: GUARD YOURSELF

- Christ informs His people He is coming *soon* which means:
 - He is coming in the *fullness of time*; not early nor late but when the Father intended (Hab 2:2-3; Mt 24:44; Mk 13:32; Ga 4:4-5)
 - Do not be deceived by False Messiahs regardless of their miraculous machinations (Mt 24:23-27; 2Th 2:3-12; Re 13:11-15)
- Harkening back to the Sower Parable, Christ warns believers to guard Truth (Mt 13:1-23)
 - Satan ever seeks to 1) Keep people from the Truth and/or 2) Steal Truth from those immature believers; these are his ingress into churches to destroy them (2Pe 2:18-22; Jude 22-23)
 - Guard yourself by 1) Building your faith {Bible}; 2) Praying in the Spirit and 3) Keeping yourself in Christ's Love, waiting for His return: Endurance {Hypomene} (Jude 20-21)

SATAN: *CARPE DIEM*; BELIEVERS: *SEMPER FIDELIS*

- Satan {Link demons (fallen angels) and the Lost with him} always seeks to seize *the day* to prevent Christ's coming by
 - Squash God's truth as he almost accomplished in the First Age and the beginning of the Second Age (our present age) then into *Great Tribulation* (Ge 6:3-5; 10:8-10; 11:1-9; Mk 7:6-13)
 - Tempted Christ to sin preventing His atoning death {Throughout Gospels} (Mt 4:1-10)
- Satan {Accuser} seeks to destroy our faith by sowing doubt
 - Jesus asks, "... when the Son of Man comes, will he find (your) faith...?" (Lk 18:7-8; Col 2:18-23)
 - Believers who do not pray will turn from the faith, one of the purposes of the *Great Tribulation*; only saved will persevere to the End: Crown always indicative of Salvation (Mt 7:21-23; Mk 13:22-27; 2Th 2:14; He 11:6; 1Jo 2:18-20)

HOLD ONTO VICTORY; DOES NOT MEAN ATTACK

- Christ's promises hinge on our faithfulness; yet, remaining faithful does not hinge on us but on the indwelling Christ-Spirit-Word (Jn 10:27-30)
 - We do not conquer by attacking but by **standing** and using, via the manifestation of the Spirit {χάρισμα, charisma}: Prayer-Word-Faith that flow from the Father (1Co 12:4-7; Ep 6:10-20)
 - If we allow error, and we do because we perceive as via an *enigma*, our error will be revealed by His Light of Truth; only what He does through us remains (Ge 5:21-24; 1Co 3:9-15; 1Co 13:12; 1Jo 1:8-10)
 - Only those who persevere are saved, remain in Christ's hand; hence, they will be *lively stones* in His Temple who is the Cornerstone, the Rock of our Salvation (Jn 10:27-30; 1Co 10:1-14; 1Pe 2:4-10)
 - Let us not *fall away* as many did when they rejected the Rock in the Wilderness; they never entered the Promised Land {Salvation}: Unbelief (He 3:7-14, 19; 4:1-11)

NEW CREATION: NEW NAMES

- In the New Creation the Father and Son will not be ashamed to identify with us because of Christ's *extrinsic* righteousness covering us
(Ga 3:23-27; Col 3:1-10; He 2:11-12; 11:13-16)
 - Christ promised each of us a *New Name* in eternity future {Pergamum} (Re 2:17)
 - Name of the Father will be *written* on us
 - Name of *New Jerusalem* will be written on us; passport for entry
 - Christ will have a *New Name* all believers will know; they will sing a *New Song: True Christians, Jews and Millennial Believers* (Re 5:8-12; 14:1-5)
 - Fundamental promise implied in the *New Covenant* (2Co 5:17)
- Duality of Names: Those who receive the *Mark (Name?) of the Beast* versus those who receive Christ's *New Name* and bear His *shame* outside *Aaronic Jerusalem* (Ez 9:4-6; Ga 4:21-31; He 11:13-16; 13:10-15; Re 13:11-17; 21:1-7; 22:1-5)

THE MATURE WHO *HEAR*: RECEIVE AND GIVE LOYALTY

- Those maturing in Christ will be guided to understand Christ's words while the immature and Lost will be confused by their own *wisdom* {Foolishness}
- Philadelphia – Loyalty, Love's tangible expression; Christ loyal to us (Jo 3:16; 6:35-40)
 - God is Love; Christ, begotten Son, is also Love: Loyalty to Father (Ep 3:14-21; 5:1-2; 1Jo 4:7-10)
 - Christ manifested Father's Love through Loyalty to those He created (Col 1:15-20)
 - Christ loyally died for sinners because Father chose us (Ro 5:6-11; Ep 1:3-14; 1Ti 1:15)
 - Christ loyally carried out Father's will as a Steward; even to death (Ph 2:3-11)
- Saved reflect loyalty back to Father-Christ via Spirit and give loyalty to the brethren, who bear image of the Son; Lost consume each other; i.e., no loyalty: Are You loyal to those over you? (Ro 1:32-2:8; 1Co 15:49; Ep 5:22-32; Ja 4:1-8; 1Pe 2:21-25; 1Jo 3:13-18)