

JESUS' ENCOURAGING PROMISES TO HIS BELOVED CHURCH
(Revelation 3:7-13)

The church of Philadelphia is referred to by our Lord Jesus as “a church of little strength.” This could be an indication that this church was small in terms of number or that it was limited in terms of its influence in the city because of the ongoing persecution the believers were subjected to. Nonetheless, our Lord Jesus loves this church dearly and has nothing against them but pure commendation and encouraging exhortation. Reflecting on Jesus’ message to this beloved church, here are three encouraging promises from our Lord that will strengthen and sustain us not only throughout the New Year but for the rest of our Christian life.

1. Jesus promises _____ of salvation.

Our Lord Jesus identifies Himself as the Holy One, the True One and One who has the key of David (Rev. 3:7). These are all Messianic titles which affirm that our Lord Jesus alone is the true and trustworthy Savior who has divine authority to grant or deny entrance into God’s kingdom. The church of Philadelphia was graciously given an open door which primarily refers to the door of eternal salvation (Rev. 3:8; John 10:9,28). In other words, our Lord Jesus gives His beloved church the assurance and security of His gift of salvation. Since we have a strong and sovereign Savior, we are eternally secure in the saving hands of Jesus (Rom. 8:38-39).

2. Jesus promises divine _____ and spiritual _____.

Our Lord Jesus also promises His beloved church divine vindication which is God’s mighty act of affirming and proving His love for His people by defending their cause and humbling their enemies. In His own words, Jesus declares that He would make the synagogue of Satan who are the enemies of God and persecutors of God’s people bow at the feet of His beloved church (Rev. 3:8; Isa. 60:14; 45:14; 1 Tim. 1:13-14). Furthermore, Jesus promises to sustain and protect His people from the hour of trial (Rev. 3:10; Matt. 24:9-13). The sole reason why we could persevere in our faith in spite of intense suffering and persecution is because of Jesus’ protecting grace and preserving prayer (John 17:11,15).

3. Jesus promises heavenly _____ and eternal _____.

Our Lord’s closing exhortation to the church of Philadelphia encourages them to hold fast to their persevering faith in Christ in light of His promised heavenly rewards and eternal belongingness with Him (Rev. 3:11-13). Jesus loves His church dearly that He pledges to give us eternal place of honor in God’s kingdom, heavenly citizenship and unhindered fellowship and intimacy with God who owns us and loves us steadfastly.
