

"EVEN WHEN OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS,
A MAN MUST GET OFF HIS SEAT
AND OPEN THE DOOR."

"OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS ONLY ONCE,
BUT TEMPTATION BANGS ON THE
DOOR FOR YEARS."

"THE DOOR OF OPPORTUNITY SWINGS
ON THE HINGES OF OPPOSITION."

"IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR
A BIG OPPORTUNITY,
SEEK OUT A BIG PROBLEM."

"OPPORTUNITIES ARE LIKE SUNRISES;
IF YOU WAIT TOO LONG,
YOU WILL MISS THEM."

f.001.tiff



WHEN LOVE GROWS COLD
EPHESUS—REVELATION 2:1-7

WHEN RESISTANCE RISES
SMYRNA—REVELATION 2:8-11

WHEN LIGHT GOES DARK
PERGAMUM—REVELATION 2:12-17

WHEN TOLERANCE IS EVIL
THYATIRA—REVELATION 2:18-29

WHEN DEATH IS LOOMING
SARDIS—REVELATION 3:1-6

WHEN OPPORTUNITY OVERWHELMS
PHILADELPHIA—REVELATION 3:7-13

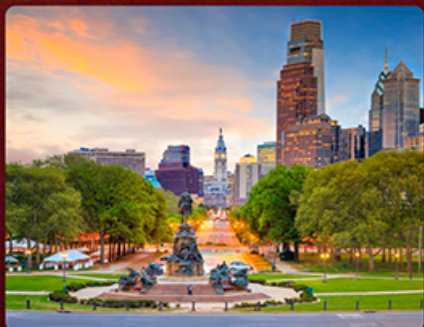
f.002.tiff

⁷"AND TO THE ANGEL OF THE CHURCH IN
PHILADELPHIA WRITE: 'THE WORDS OF THE
HOLY ONE, THE TRUE ONE, WHO HAS THE
KEY OF DAVID, WHO OPENS AND NO ONE
WILL SHUT, WHO SHUTS AND NO ONE
OPENS. ⁸"I KNOW YOUR WORKS. BEHOLD,
I HAVE SET BEFORE YOU AN OPEN DOOR,
WHICH NO ONE IS ABLE TO SHUT. I KNOW
THAT YOU HAVE BUT LITTLE POWER,
AND YET YOU HAVE KEPT MY WORD AND
HAVE NOT DENIED MY NAME. ⁹BEHOLD,
I WILL MAKE THOSE OF THE SYNAGOGUE
OF SATAN WHO SAY THAT THEY ARE JEWS
AND ARE NOT, BUT LIE—BEHOLD, I WILL
MAKE THEM COME AND BOW DOWN
BEFORE YOUR FEET, AND THEY WILL LEARN
THAT I HAVE LOVED YOU.

f.003.tiff

¹⁰BECAUSE YOU HAVE KEPT MY WORD
ABOUT PATIENT ENDURANCE, I WILL KEEP
YOU FROM THE HOUR OF TRIAL THAT
IS COMING ON THE WHOLE WORLD.
TO TRY THOSE WHO DWELL ON THE
EARTH. ¹¹I AM COMING SOON. HOLD FAST
WHAT YOU HAVE, SO THAT NO ONE MAY
SEIZE YOUR CROWN. ¹²THE ONE WHO
CONQUERS, I WILL MAKE HIM A PILLAR
IN THE TEMPLE OF MY GOD. NEVER SHALL
HE GO OUT OF IT, AND I WILL WRITE
ON HIM THE NAME OF MY GOD, AND THE
NAME OF THE CITY OF MY GOD, THE NEW
JERUSALEM, WHICH COMES DOWN
FROM MY GOD OUT OF HEAVEN, AND MY
OWN NEW NAME. ¹³HE WHO HAS AN EAR,
LET HIM HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAYS TO
THE CHURCHES.'" —REVELATION 3:7-13

f.004.tiff



f.005.tiff



f.006.tiff

I. CHRIST'S SOVEREIGNTY IN THE FACE
OF OUR LIMITED HUMAN ABILITY
(REVELATION 3:7)

f.007.tiff

1
THE AUTHENTICITY OF CHRIST

f.008.tiff

I JOHN 5:20

AND WE KNOW THAT THE SON OF GOD HAS COME
AND HAS GIVEN US UNDERSTANDING, SO THAT
WE MAY KNOW HIM WHO IS TRUE; AND WE ARE
IN HIM WHO IS TRUE, IN HIS SON JESUS CHRIST.
HE IS THE TRUE GOD AND ETERNAL LIFE.

f.009.tiff

2

THE ACCESS OF CHRIST

f.010.tiff

ISAIAH 22:22

AND I WILL PLACE ON HIS SHOULDER
THE KEY OF THE HOUSE OF DAVID.
HE SHALL OPEN, AND NONE SHALL SHUT;
AND HE SHALL SHUT, AND NONE SHALL OPEN.

f.011.tiff

3

THE AUTHORITY OF CHRIST

f.012.tiff

REVELATION 1:17

WHEN I SAW HIM, I FELL AT HIS FEET
AS THOUGH DEAD. BUT HE LAID HIS
RIGHT HAND ON ME, SAYING,
“FEAR NOT, I AM THE FIRST AND THE LAST.”

f.013.tiff

I TIMOTHY 2:15
JOHN 14:6
MATTHEW 16:13-19
ACTS 4:12

f.014.tiff

2. EACH OPPORTUNITY IS INTENDED
FOR GREATER MISSION AND MINISTRY
(REVELATION 3:8)

f.015.tiff

“THESE BELIEVERS UNDERSTOOD THAT
THE GREATNESS OF GOD FAR OUTWEIGHED
THEIR HUMBLE CIRCUMSTANCES.
THEY ALSO KNEW THAT THEIR RESPONSIBILITY
WAS SIMPLE:

f.016.tiff

ACKNOWLEDGE THE OPEN DOOR
OF OPPORTUNITY BEFORE THEM AND
MOVE THROUGH IT WITH CONFIDENCE."
—CHARLES SWINDOLL

f.017.tiff

²⁶FOR CONSIDER YOUR CALLING,
BROTHERS: NOT MANY OF YOU
WERE WISE ACCORDING TO
WORLDLY STANDARDS, NOT MANY
WERE POWERFUL, NOT MANY WERE
OF NOBLE BIRTH. ²⁷BUT GOD CHOSE
WHAT IS FOOLISH IN THE WORLD TO
SHAME THE WISE; GOD CHOSE WHAT
IS WEAK IN THE WORLD TO SHAME
THE STRONG; ²⁸GOD CHOSE WHAT
IS LOW AND DESPISED IN THE WORLD,
EVEN THINGS THAT ARE NOT,
TO BRING TO NOTHING THINGS
THAT ARE, ²⁹SO THAT NO
HUMAN BEING MIGHT BOAST
IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD.
—I CORINTHIANS 1:26-29

f.018.tiff

"A CHURCH'S VISION
SHOULD NOT BE DETERMINED
BY THE SIZE OF ITS CONGREGATION,
THE LIMITATIONS OF ITS LOCATION,
OR THE RESTRICTIONS OF ITS BUDGET.
INSTEAD, CHURCHES SHOULD
SET THEIR VISION BASED
ON THE POWER OF THEIR GOD.
GOD IS INFINITE, MAGNIFICENT,
AWESOME, AND MIGHTY—BEYOND
DESCRIPTION OR COMPREHENSION!
WHEN HE CHOOSES TO OPEN
OPPORTUNITIES, THE POSSIBILITIES
ARE ENDLESS. ALL WE NEED TO DO IS
TRUST AND FOLLOW HIM,
WHEREVER HE LEADS."
—CHARLES SWINDOLL

f.019.tiff

WORSHIP • CONNECT • SERVE • DISCIPLE • SEND

f.020.tiff

3. OUR ADVERSITY IS PART OF THE CHURCH'S ENDURANCE HISTORY

(REVELATION 3:9-10)

f.021.tiff

"THE CHURCH IS NOT A PLACE FOR PEOPLE WITH NO WEAKNESSES. IT IS A FELLOWSHIP OF THOSE WHO ARE AWARE OF THEIR WEAKNESSES AND LONG FOR THE STRENGTH AND GRACE OF GOD TO FILL THEIR LIVES. IT'S A SPIRITUAL HOSPITAL FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK AND NEEDY." —JOHN MACARTHUR

f.022.tiff

"OUR PAIN GIVES US A PLATFORM.
THE QUESTION BECOMES,
'WHAT AM I SAYING TO THE WORLD
IN THE MIDST OF MY PAIN?'
DO I ALLOW MY FAITH
TO BECOME THE PRODUCT
OF MY CIRCUMSTANCES,
OR IS GOD STILL GOOD EVEN
IF MY CIRCUMSTANCES ARE NOT?
THE SCOPE OF HIS CHARACTER
AND GRACE DOES NOT CHANGE
WHEN SUFFERING COMES.

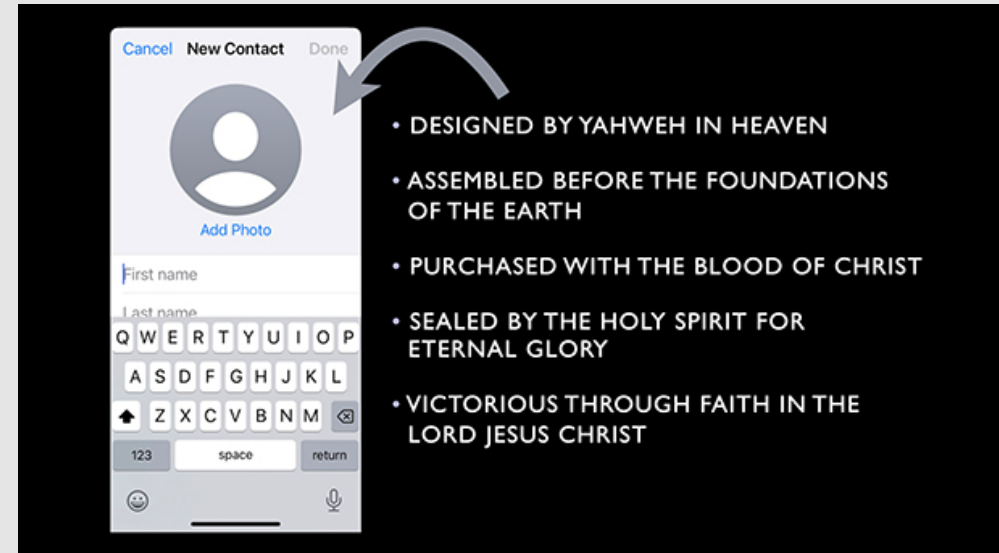
f.023.tiff

AS I TRUST GOD,
EVEN IN MY HEARTACHE,
I LET MY LIFE SPEAK OF A HOPE
THAT EXTENDS WELL BEYOND
WHAT WE CAN SEE OR TOUCH.
WE REVEAL A GLORIOUS GOD
WHO HAS BETTER THINGS THAN
JUST THESE EARTHEN VESSELS
WE GET TO LIVE IN. IT POINTS
TO THE TREASURE INSIDE THAT
ENDURES FAR BEYOND THE REACHES
OF WHAT HARM MOTH OR RUST
CAN DO." —DANIEL RITCHIE

f.024.tiff

4. OUR SECURITY COMES WHEN WE
FOCUS ON CHRIST'S VICTORY

f.025.tiff



f.026.tiff