

# PHILADELPHIA

CONVICTIONS TO LIVE BY

LIFE GROUP SYUDY GUIDE - JUNE 13, 2021

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# LETTERS FROM JESUS

# PHILADELPHIA

The church of Philadelphia was a small church, a struggling group of believers but they had their hearts focused on Jesus. In this study guide; you will learn 3 important lessons from that struggling church that we can put into practice in our lives.

Stop and look at where you are. Where we are as a church family. This pandemic has caused us to do things differently. Some of us are sitting on the front lawn of the church. Some of us are sitting in our cars while others we are watching online. But the truth is, we are doing things differently than we were 18 months ago.

Say, someone new comes to your workplace or moves on to your street or comes to your school and they ask you this question: *"Where can I find a good church?"* or *"How can I find a good church?"* or simply *"What is a good church?"*

I want us to think through that question as we learn about the church at Philadelphia. For some of us we think of *great preaching* or *great music* or *great children's ministry* or *youth ministry* or *young adult's ministry* and all those things are important but "What is really important to our heavenly Father, when it comes to His church?" - think on that.

For me a good church is one that we will have least these **three convictions** at their core.

## CONVICTION #1. JESUS IS WORTH EVERYTHING

- Revelation 3:7

### A. He is Holy (Isaiah 40:25; Habakkuk 3:3)

1. There is something about Jesus that sets Him apart. His holiness is part of what sets Him apart. In the Old Testament God was frequently called holy. Isaiah 40:25 says, "To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal? Says the Holy One."
2. In Mark 1, Jesus went into the Synagogue and began to teach and the people were amazed because He taught as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the Law. **Mark 1:23-24**, *"Just then a man in the Synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, 'What do you want with us Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are----the Holy One of God!'"*

### Reflect on this:

What do these verses tell us about Jesus?

**B. Jesus is True.**

What does this mean? Read Revelation 6:10, John 14:16, 1 John 5:20

This means we can depend on Him. He is true and trustworthy. In a time when so much is changing, we know the one who is True and unchanging. He is dependable. We can trust Him.

**Reflect on this:**

Knowing that the Bible says **Jesus is True**; how does this affect your life?

**C. He is sovereign.**

"I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades." - Rev 1:18

Isaiah 22:22 - "I will place on his shoulders the key to the house of David; what he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open."

Jesus alone, has the authority to admit or exclude who will come into the presence of the King. Read John 10:7-9 and 1 Timothy 2:5.

**A good church points people to Jesus because Jesus is worth everything.**

**CONVICTION #2. THE GOSPEL IS WORTH SHARING**

- Revelation 3:8-9

**A. I Know Your Deeds.**

Image this: You and the Saviour in a room alone and He says these 4 words, **"I know your deeds."**

**Reflect on this:**

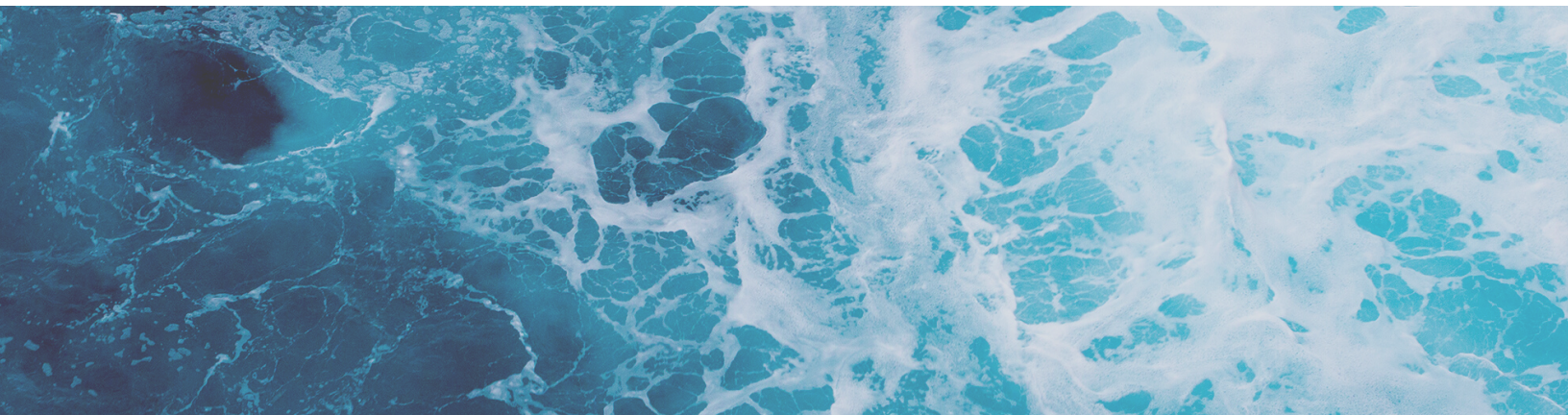
In your everyday life or even as a church community, what do the words "I know your Deeds" sound in our hearts.

Do they bring *comfort, encouragement and peace*? Or do they ring *fear, worry and shame*?

When you and I are in step with the Spirit of God as Paul calls us to be in **Galatians 5:16** we don't have any reason to worry about those 4 words. In fact, we invite them and welcome them. However, if we don't have time for Jesus, it's a different story isn't it? But if we need to repent that's okay. We can repent.

**B. The gospel should be central in all that the church does in one way or another.**

Maybe today you are thinking your life is pretty good. Here's my question for you. Is it possible for your life to be better? Do a little soul searching and check out the one called Jesus. Is He central in all that you do? Is the Gospel central in all that the church does today?





The Church in Philadelphia, though small, struggling in a sense - their heartbeat was for Jesus. They were faithful to God in even at their lowest - ***"...I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name" - Rev 3:8b***

Oh, what an encouragement it must have been to hear Jesus say that He loved them. **I know your deeds** and **I love you.**

Maybe today you needed to hear these truths as well.

Maybe your situation is that you are barely hanging on.

It's been such a struggle.

Your strength is so small. You don't have much left.

Today Jesus says, **I know.** In fact, **I know your deeds.**

I saw you read your Bible the other day.

I heard your prayer.

I saw the way you listened to your children.

I noticed how you texted your friend that you hadn't heard from for a while.

I heard the kind words you spoke to the clerk in the store even though you were at the end of your day.

I watched you turn off the show and call your parents.

**I love you more than you can possibly imagine. I'm right here, right now.**

## CONVICTION #3. THE PROMISES OF GOD ARE WORTH HANGING ON TO.

- Revelation 3:10-13

### A. The one named Jesus is Trustworthy.

Commentating on verse 10, "Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth."

Daniel Akin says "In response to their endurance, He promises a remarkable protection from an hour of testing that will test the whole world and those who live on the earth." (p. 95 Christ-Centered Exposition)

### Reflect on this:

1. Are you an "End Times" student?
2. Have you come to a firm conviction on what will happen and when it will happen?
3. Is this an area of study that you feel you should explore? Why or why not?

### B. The Promise of His Soon Return

First remember who is saying this. It's Jesus. *"I am coming soon"* He says to this little group of believers in Philadelphia.

**Revelation 22:7**, *"Look, I am coming soon!"*  
22:12, *"Look, I am coming soon!"* and 22:20, *"He who testifies to these things says, Yes I am coming soon."*



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### Read **Revelations 3:11; 22:7-20**

The message throughout Revelation is the same. Daniel Akin says in his commentary on Revelation, *"One of the glorious aspects of biblical eschatology is that we should live in the hope of the any-time, imminent return of Jesus."* (p. 97)

How do we do that? Is it possible to live in the "anytime, imminent return of Jesus?"

### A. The Promise of a New Home

This is so incredible. This struggling band of believers is told to hang on because *"I've got a place waiting for you"*. A new home.

Friend, the Promises of God are worth hanging on to!

Are you going through some deep and difficult times? **Hang on to the promises of God!**

A good church will point you to the promises of God.

### TAKE HOME

Have conviction to sharing the gospel;

Have conviction of knowing that Jesus is everything;

Have conviction that the promises of God are worth hanging on to.

AMEN.