

**"HOLD ON!"**

**Revelation 3:7-13  
2016**

**March 19-20,**

**Why should you hold onto your faithful witness for Christ?:**

1. **JESUS.** (3:7; Acts 2:22-41; Isa. 22:20-25)
  
2. **JESUS S\_\_\_\_\_ YOUR PERSEVERANCE** (3:8; Heb. 6:10-12)
  
3. **JESUS WILL DEAL WITH YOUR E\_\_\_\_\_** (3:9; Psalm 110; Isa. 49:23)
  
4. **JESUS WILL H\_\_\_\_\_ YOU** (3:10-11; Isa. 41:10)
  - **HE GIVES US HIS E\_\_\_\_\_** (3:10; Hebrews 12:1-3)
  
  - **HE GIVES US S\_\_\_\_\_** (3:10; John 10:7-11; Eph. 2:8-10)
  
  - **HE GIVES US H\_\_\_\_\_ OF FUTURE VICTORY** (3:11; Rev. 19:11-21; 22:12-13)
  
  - **HE GIVES US A MOTIVATING C\_\_\_\_\_** (3:11; Rom. 15:4; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:9-13)
  
5. **JESUS WILL MAKE YOU MORE THAN C\_\_\_\_\_** (3:12-13; Rom. 8:31-39; Phil. 2:9-11)

***NEXT STEP: Hold fast to Jesus in your faithful witness in spite of persecution!  
JOIN A LIFE GROUP. You need others to help you hold fast!***

**Discussion Guide:**

**BIG IDEA:** Jesus is pleased when we are faithful to Him in our obedience and witness in spite of being despised by the world around us.

**CONNECTING:**

Have you ever been despised by someone because of your faith in Christ? Tell your story. How did you feel? How did you react? How did God encourage you to continue in the faith after this happened to you?

What spoke to you the most from God's Word in this letter to the Church of Philadelphia?

**UNDERSTANDING:**

Why would it be encouraging to the oppressed Philadelphians to know that Jesus is the one who has the 'key of David', as opposed to those in the 'synagogue of Satan' having it?" Read Isaiah 22:15-25 and Acts 2:22-36 for more background.

We are to love our enemies, but why is it also helpful to see our enemies finally recognize one day that we were right about Jesus?

What do the rewards in verses 12-13 mean? How would these encourage the Philadelphians? How do these encourage you?

**LIVING**

Are you actively sharing your faith? Where are you finding these 'open doors'? How are people responding? What has been encouraging and discouraging? If you are not actively sharing your faith in Christ, why not? What is stopping you?

How have the words of Christ to the church in Philadelphia helped you to continue following Christ in obedience and public witness? How have they caused you to desire to *start* being an obedient witness for Him?

**Assignment:** Resolve to do three things: 1.) Pick one person you will share about Christ with this week and tell your group to pray. 2.) Take the "Cross Challenge" and conclude this with holding a cross for the "Carry the Cross" event on March 26th (see program about these). 3.) Start getting equipped to faithfully proclaim Christ by attending Jeremy Seifert's *Evangelism Class* on Sundays at 10:45 a.m. (see LIFE University information about this).

**Further Reading:** *Foxe's Book of Martyrs* - John Foxe; *Through Gates of Splendor* - Elisabeth Elliot; *Tortured for Christ* - Richard Wurmbrand; *The Life and Diary of David Brainerd* - Jonathan Edwards