

IN TOUCH

THE REWARD OF FAITHFULNESS

Dear Friend:

I am left handed. Once upon a time I heard a story about how we left handers came to be left handed. This is the brief story: "Everyone is born left handed and remains left handed – until they sin," I like that, how about you? So, are left handers really perfect? No way. Only one perfect person walked the earth – Jesus. You have no doubt heard the line: "If you're looking for the perfect church – don't go there you'll ruin it."

There is no perfect person, and thus no perfect church. However, in Revelation 3:7-13 we discover a very good church – a very faithful church: the church of Philadelphia (not PA). The church of Smyrna and the church of Philadelphia are the only churches in Revelation that God has no condemnation or criticism for. In regards to the church of Philadelphia God tells them that if they remain faithful they will receive four rewards. First, a secure salvation is a reward for faithfulness. Revelation 3:7 says "...what he (Jesus) opens no one can shut, what he shuts no one can open." In other words, what Jesus promises no one can take away. He promises salvation to those who remain faithful. Second reward: a certain surrender. Jesus says in Revelation 3:9 that those who do not follow Jesus will be forced to surrender to those who do follow Jesus. Their surrender will be to confess that God has loved those who are faithful. Third reward: A safer situation. "The hour of trial" was coming. No doubt persecution would increase but faithfulness to Jesus would keep them safe. Fourth reward: a sure second coming. Jesus' second coming will not be something to fear, but for those who remain faithful it is something to look forward to.

God rewards the church of Philadelphia, not because they are perfect but because they remained faithful. I believe you want the rewards Philadelphia received. Remain faithful and you will!

In Christ's Love

Pastor Mike

Prayer: Helen Martindale (chemotherapy), Dick Hickernell (radiation) , Dick Fisher

Events: Sunday 10:15 am BACK TO CHURCH DAY!