

Chapter 10

The Church at Philadelphia

*“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write ...”
(Revelation 3:7)*

He lived between 1483 and 1546 AD. Martin Luther, the German priest, was considered to be the beginning of the Reformation – the period of time during which God would re-establish His Church. Though Martin Luther was not perfect, he did understand that what the established Church was teaching and how it was leading the people was not what the Bible indicated. His act of crawling up the stairway to the church and nailing his 95 theses to the door represented the time when men were through following their pagan and false teachings and were returning to what God had given us in His word.

After Luther many, not only in Germany, but also in other European countries, caught the vision of the truth. They began interpreting the Bible in the common language so that all could have access to the Word of God for themselves. No longer would they have to depend upon the false interpretations of the Priests. They would have the opportunity to know for themselves.

With the invention of the Guttenberg Printing Press, the first book ever to appear in print was the Bible. This sparked the fire of the vision of making the Bible available to all people. A careful reading of Foxes Book of Martyrs will reveal the results. Great men and women whose only crime was interpreting the Bible from Latin into the common language were persecuted, and executed. Their quest to bring the Word to every man was paid for in blood.

As a result the Protestant Movement was born. It was never meant to be splintered the way it is today but the original cause was just and needed. The greatest fear now was not in persecution by pagans, angry because their false deities were being disclaimed for the One True God, but the greatest persecution came from those who claimed the very name of Jesus Christ. Yet the movement could not be stopped. Great revivals broke out as a result and many fled Europe for the New Land of America.

This marked the beginning of the revival era. Missions were reborn and the Church was delivered from the Dark Ages. This age of the Church was not reprimanded for their faults. Instead they were commended because they had a “little strength, had kept Christ’s word, and had not denied His name.” The promise was two-fold: First they were told that He would make those of the synagogue of Satan (the false church) to fall before them and worship at their feet. Secondly they were promised deliverance from the hour of trial – the time when God would pour out His wrath upon the world.

He stated, *“Look, I am coming quickly. Hold tightly to what you have and let no man rob you of your crown. Those overcoming will be made pillars in the Temple of God and they shall never leave. I will write on you the name of God, the name of the city of God (New Jerusalem), and My own new name”* (paraphrased from Revelation 3:11-12). He was saying that those who would not give in to the world system and the temptation to compromise, but held tightly to the Gospel truth would be made strong pillars, holding up the very Temple of God where they will ever be. They will be sealed by the great name of God, be given citizenship to the city of God, the New Jerusalem, and labeled with the very secret name – representing His own authority – of Jesus Christ.

This age continues even today, despite the threats and accusations from the last-days false church that we will discuss next. It is made up of all those from every walk of life, every race found upon Planet Earth, and from every denomination. This statement does not mean that the denominations are justified and right, but only that people from them have sealed themselves as believers in Jesus Christ, will hold true to the Word of God, and despite what man may say or teach next, will hold to this truth. This is the age that will be saved by the blood of the Lamb and will take part in the rapture of believers – God’s one true Church, when He returns to claim His redeemed creation.

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