

# The Message

- As the Lord revealed His word to these few faithful ones, they heard it, recognized and acted on it without succumbing to the temptation to put a “period” behind it, write a religious creed or make a denomination out of it.
- If these “few” faithful ones in Sardis fell to the temptation to mix the Word with tradition and their own ideas, or join themselves to denomination they would be guilty of defiling their garments by committing spiritual adultery and fornication against the Lord.

# The Message

- In His message to this age the Lord acknowledge that they “had not defiled their garments”
- Therefore, He counted them worthy to walk with him in white, in righteousness, in Glory, at the end of all ages.

# The Message

- In looking back to this age most protestant church leaders view it as the great age of the church.
- They saw only the breaking of the Roman yoke and a man Luther blasting forth his message on “the just shall live by faith”
- What they did not see was the continuing influence of Nicolaitanism and Baalism on the heels of this new protestant move.

# The Message

- “He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my father, and before His angels.  
(Revelation.3:5)
- Again the emphasis is put on the “over comer”
- “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world; and this is the victory that overcometh the world even our faith. (1John.5:4)

# The Message

- “He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son”  
(Revelation.21:7)
- The over comer in Sardis received a three fold promise.
- 1) to be clothed in white raiment.
- 2) His name would remain in the book of life.
- 3) His name would be confess before the Father and His angels.

# The Message

- All that the Father giveth me shall cometh to me; and I will in no wise cast out... And this is the Father's will which hath sent me I should lose nothing , but should raise it up again at the last day. (John.6:37 & 39)
- To the undefiled saints in Sardis the Lord promised that he would not blot their names out of the book of life.
- He foreknew them before the foundation of the world.

# The Message

- Before the foundation of the world God gave them to Christ a part of His inheritance from among the gentiles to bear His name.
- Our Lord promises to confess their names before the Father and His angels.
- “Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of God also confess before the angels of God. (Luke.12:8)
- To “confess” Him is to say what He says in His Word – without denominational influence or man made religious creeds.



**Luther**

**Reformation  
Begins**

**Sardis**  
**1520 - 1750**



# The Sixth Parable

- AGAIN, THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE UNTO A MERCHANT MAN, SEEKING GOODLY PEARLS:
- WHO, WHEN HE HAD FOUND ONE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE, WENT AND SOLD ALL THAT HE HAD AND BOUGHT IT.
- (Matthew.13:45-46)

# The Sixth Parable

- With the close of the Sardisean Church Age, we enter into the Philadelphian age. Unlike the man we read in the fifth parable, this man was a merchant by trade.
- He was in the business looking out for beautiful and valuable pearls. This man was the preacher John Wesley, the messenger to the age of Philadelphia, an age of brotherly kindness.

# The Sixth Parable

- John Wesley's "pearl of great price" became known as the doctrine of Sanctification, Consecration and dedication unto God.
- His followers were taught to approach their religious activities methodically and discipline life. Hence they were called Methodists.

# The Philadelphian Church Age



THE TIME PERIOD  
1750AD TO 1906AD

THE MESSENGER  
JOHN WESLEY

THE CITY  
PHILADELPHIA

BIBLE REFERENCE  
REV.3:7-13

# The Messenger – JOHN WESLEY

- John Wesley was born at Epworth, England, June 17, 1703 and was one of the nineteen children born to Samuel and Susanna Wesley.
- His father was a chaplain in the church of England. (the half sister to the Roman church) But the greatest religious influence in John's life was his mother's highly commendable Christian life..

# JOHN WESLEY

- John was a brilliant scholar, and his brother Charles, attended the university of Oxford. It was while at Oxford that Lord began to deal with John.
- When in Oxford he and his brother became a part of a group of students who felt that the emphasis should be on “living the Christ like life” rather than on making doctrine their standard.

# JOHN WESLEY

- They drew up spiritual guidelines – a “method” by which they would discipline their daily lives.
- They focus on such “works” as giving to the poor , visiting the sick and the imprisoned. For this they were called the Methodists.

# JOHN WESLEY

- John Wesley , wanting to do something for the Lord, ventured forth as a missionary , traveling to America to take message of the Gospel to the American Indians in Georgia.
- On His way there he found that many of the ship's passengers were Moravians. He was deeply impressed by their meekness, peace, and courage in all circumstances.
- His labors in Georgia in spite of self denials and hard work was a failiure.



# JOHN WESLEY

- Wesley returned to England crying “I went to America to convert to convert the Indians but oh! Who shall convert me?”
- Back in London he again met the Moravians. One of them Peter Boehler, expounded unto John the way of salvation which was “by grace through faith not of works”
- The revelation was quickened in John’s heart and he was truly born again.

# JOHN WESLEY

- John's brother , Charles, could not understand how such a spiritual man as John could say he was not previously right with God.
- But not long after John's "experience with God" Charles himself came to experience the "New Birth" .Which is found alone "by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ"

# JOHN WESLEY

- With the anointing of God on his life Wesley now (London) to preach the Gospel of salvation in the pulpits in which he had previously preached salvation in through “works”
- But He would soon discover that his “anointed preaching was not welcome in the pulpits which now preached by a “form of Godliness and works” religion.
- Church doors were closed in his face. He was considered to be out of step with the organized church.

# John Wesley

- Wesley's old friend, George Whitefield invited John to come and help him preach in "God's Cathedral" the open fields of England where thousands under Whitefield's ministry were listening to the word of God.
- At first Wesley was skeptical of preaching in open fields as opposed to being in a building. But he could not deny the results he was seeing.

# John Wesley

- Thousands of souls being brought to the Kingdom of God through the Gospel that was preached in the power and demonstration of the Holy Spirit.
- Convinced, Wesley preached where ever when ever the Holy Spirit led Him, in open field, in buildings, in homes.

# John Wesley

- So great was the response to the ministry of the word that Wesley began sending out numerous laymen to preached the word.
- It was like in the days of the early church in the book of Acts. Almost overnight the Holy Spirit raised up men with power to preach and teach the word.
- The revival spirit was in the air, men and women were born in to the church of the “first born”, written in heaven. Not a church or a group dominated by men, but the true church which was under the power and leadership of God.

# John Wesley

- In spite of tremendous and sometime violent opposition to Wesley's work it kept growing and spreading. God was with him.
- So powerful was the anointing of the Spirit of conviction on the people that it would take away their strength and they would fall to ground crying in great distress over their sins.
- Today Methodists and rest of the Christian religion preach "forgiveness without repentance": "heaven but no hell": resulting in a Christianity without Christ.

# John Wesley

- By the grace of God Wesley was a remarkably strong man. He says of himself that he could not remember ever having felt lowness of spirit for even a quarter hour since he was born.
- He slept no more than six hours a day. Arose in time to start, preaching at five practically every day of his ministry.
- Preaching up to four times on a single day so that in a year he would average over 800 sermons. The power of God was present to perform his word .



# John Wesley

- John and his circuit of riding preachers traveled thousands of miles to carry the Gospel near and far. Infact Wesley traveled 4500 miles per year by horse.
- He was a believer in the power of God and he prayed for the sick with great faith and wonderful results.
- Many of His meetings saw manifestation of Spiritual Gifts.

# John Wesley

- Wesley was not in favor of organization. It was not his intention that “the Methodists revival” be organized into a denominational church, replacing the word with a creed, and replacing spontaneous praise and worship with ritual and form of godliness.
- He recognized time after his death the movement would be organized and Spirit of God leave them dead form.

# John Wesley

- Wesley once remarked that he did not fear that the name of Methodist would leave the earth but that the Spirit might take His flight from the Methodist movement.
- He based his eternal life on faith and the works or the living of the life rather than accepting a creed or doctrinal statement.

# John Wesley

- John Wesley died at the age of 88 having served God as few men would even dare to think they might.
- And the Methodist churches world over who would claim Wesley as their leader and founder have long lost the LIFE , POWER, CHARACTER which he possessed.

# Bible Reference

## (Revelation.3:7-8)

- And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David. He that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;
- I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it; for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

# The Bible Reference

## (Revelation.3;9-10)

- Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.
- Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the , to try them that dwell upon the earth.

# The Bible Reference

## (Revelation.3:11-13)

- Behold I will come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.
- Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out ; and I will write upon him name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.
- He that hath an ear , let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the Churches.

# The City - Philadelphia

- Philadelphia was seventy-five miles southwest of Sardis. It was second largest city of Lydia. It was built upon several hills in a famous wine – growing district.
- And its coins bore the head of Bacchus, the pagan deity of the city.
- The population of the city included, Jews, Christians, Christians of Jewish origin.
- The city also suffered frequent earth quakes, yet its duration was the longest of the seven cities Revelation.



# The City Philadelphia

- The important thing to remember about Philadelphia is the “meaning” of the name “LOVE OF THE BRETHEN” .
- This attribute is characteristic of the Philadelphia age itself. This characteristic overflows into the beginning of the final age – LAODICEA.

# The Message

- “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and on man openeth”. (Revelation.3:7)
- In the salutation to this sixth age we see another revelation of the CHARACTER of Him who is in the midst of the Seven golden candlesticks.
- He is here described as being “Holy” and “True”. It is a “Holiness of truth” which speaks of Him who is “Holiness” personified and “Truth” magnified.

# The Message

- The LORD Himself said “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life” (John.14:6) in Hebrew 12:14 Paul exhorts us to “Follow peace with all men and holiness, without which no man shall see God”.
- Yielding our lives to Him who is the Way the Truth and the Life will produce the “HOLINESS OF THE TRUTH – THE WORD IN US.”

# The Message

- The LORD here identifies Him as One “that hath the key; not just any key but it is called the key of David”. And with the “Key” He “Openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth and no man openeth”
- This a direct reference to a Prophecy in ISAIAH.22:22 speaking of the Messiah “And the Key of the house of David will I lay upon His shoulder; so He shall open , and none shall shut; and He shall shut none shall open”

# The Message

- The Spirit uses this old testament reference to show the Authority of the LORD JESUS CHRIST and His ministry in the Church After His resurrection.
- The words of Isaiah were a mere shadow or Prophecy fulfilled in Jesus, found standing in the midst of the seven golden lamp stands.
- It was after his resurrection that Jesus stood on the earth and said "All power is given unto me in Heaven and in Earth" (Matthew.28:18)

# The Message

- Jesus announces that he has “the Keys of Hell and Death” (Revelation.1:18). But here in the Philadelphian age its speaks of the Key.
- The POSITION of the KEY – it is not in His hand where one would expect to find a key.
- IT IS ON HIS SHOULDER. !!!

# The Message

- “And the Key of the house of David will I lay upon HIS SHOLDER; so He shall open, and no man shall shut: he shall shut no man shall open” (ISAIAH.22:22)
- He alone “THIS KEY”. He gave Peter some “keys” (plural). But This “KEY” (singular) is given alone to Christ.
- Without “This Key” He would not have been able to give the “keys of the Kingdom” to Peter.