



## [Revelation 3:10](#)

(10) Because you have kept the word of My patience, I also will keep you from the time of temptation which *is* about to come upon the whole world to try those who dwell on the earth.

*A Faithful Version*

Before examining this promise, it may be helpful to understand what it does *not* say. Note how conventional [wisdom](#) would paraphrase this verse:

Because you consider yourself to be a Philadelphian, and because you are with the church organization that is doing the most to [preach the gospel](#) to [the world](#), I will keep you from the hour of trial and will take you to the Place of Safety where you will be protected while all those who disagree with you will go through the Tribulation.

"Conventional wisdom" is not actually wisdom! It is what is generally held to be true by many, yet it may, in fact, be fallacious. This rendering of [Revelation 3:10](#) is the conventional wisdom in some circles, illustrating how many take narcissistic liberties with this verse. It also shows why there is such an emphasis today on which church group is the best: because we are averse to pain and tend to try to avoid it. Thus, some convince themselves that they will be safe from what lies ahead because they are with the right *church*—rather than being right with *God*. This is extremely dangerous, as it indicates that they trust in the wrong thing.

The letters to the seven churches in [Revelation 2 and 3](#) are written in large part from a perspective of "if the shoe fits, wear it." In each, [Jesus](#) concludes with "he who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches"—plural—meaning we should glean all that we can from *each* letter rather than focus on our favorite one.

In this light, a way to approach [Revelation 3:10](#) is that *perseverance* is part of what

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Christ uses to define who a Philadelphian is. Thus, an individual is a Philadelphian *because* he keeps His command to persevere, in addition to exemplifying the other things He says, such as keeping His Word and not denying His name ([Revelation 3:8](#)). In short, a person cannot conclude that, just because he is fellowshiping with a particularly faithful group, he will be carried along in its positive momentum and benefit from the promise of protection and other blessings. An unfaithful individual in an overall faithful group will reap what *he* sows, not what the rest of the group sows.

Christ says similar things in other places, as in [Matthew 10:22](#): "And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But *he who endures to the end will be saved*" (emphasis ours throughout). He makes no mention of group membership but addresses the enduring individual. Similarly, in [Matthew 24:12-13](#) and [Luke 21:36](#), He emphasizes what we do as *individuals*—our personal [faithfulness](#) and endurance—rather than the merits of a particular group. Just as [Laodiceanism](#) can be found in each of us regardless of the church we attend, so each of us can persevere and courageously endure no matter where we fellowship.

— David C. Grabbe

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