

UPCOMING EVENTS:

MEMBER MEETING

TODAY at 12:30pm

It's time to make some decisions about our future building.

We are inviting our members to come have a voice in the process.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

THIS SATURDAY at 8:15am

All men are invited to attend our men's breakfast here at Element.

We will have a short time of teaching, eating, and getting to know Element's philosophy of ministry.

CINDERELLA'S CLOSET

THIS SATURDAY, 10a-2p

If you have any dresses you would like to donate, or know any girls who would like to shop, Contact info@ourelement.org

BAPTISMS

Baptisms: April 19th at 1pm

Signup today if you'd like to get baptized. There will be a short

eKids! Child & Parent Class:

March 15th at 12:30pm.

WOMEN'S REDEEMED LIVES

March 28th, 11a-2p

Come hear two of our very own share their stories of God's Redemption in their lives.

Childcare is provided, but you must sign up.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Thank you for joining us today. This is a short note to let you know that we know what you are thinking: It is hot and cramped in this room. We want to acknowledge with you that yes, the front room is full, the kids rooms are full, and it can get warm. We are working on alleviating this right now by building our own building on the land just north of us (we must be out of this one by December 2016).

There is a lot that goes into the process of Element having a permanent home, but we hope that today you are first drawn to Jesus before you are overwhelmed by anything else. If it gets too hot we may hand out popsicles to help you cool off and give you a sugar rush. If you would like a service that has open seats (and is cooler), you are invited to our 8:15am service. Please understand that all of these "challenges" are because of our love for Jesus, people, and growth that has come quickly. These are good things. We hope you will stay as we work to make more room for you to be part of the good thing Jesus is doing here. If you would like more information about our building process or how you can participate you can visit www.elementroots.org.

- The Element Team

CHURCHES
OF

REVELATION

TODAY'S VERSES:

Ephesians 6:13
Revelation 3:7-13
Hebrews 12:2
Matthew 16:18
Psalms 27:1

MY NOTES:

06. PHILADELPHIA

06. PHILADELPHIA DOORS, KEYS, AND PILLARS

CHURCHES OF REVELATION

*Therefore take up the whole armor of God,
that you may be able to withstand in the evil day,
and having done all, to stand firm - Ephesians 6:13*

At Element we are taking a look at the letters to the seven churches in the book of Revelation chapters 2-3. We are calling this series part of our LENT like journey as we ask Jesus to search our hearts and minds to root out all the things that we think we are hiding from Him. We are doing this over 10 weeks until RESURRECTION, which is Easter. To most of the churches in Revelation Jesus gives rebuke and encouragement that go hand in hand, but to the church in Philadelphia, that we look at today, Jesus only offers encouragement in their endurance.

What do you think you are good at?

In what area do you think Jesus would say you are doing well?

The city of Philadelphia was founded in 189 BC by King Eumenes II. He named the city Philadelphia (the “city of brotherly love”) for the love that he had for his own brother, Attalus II. All east-west and north-south trade in the province of Asia passed through Philadelphia. Its position made it an outpost of Hellenism, founded to spread Greek language and culture in Lydia and Phrygia.

Who are the “rulers” in our current culture?

What things do you think the “rulers” in our culture push to see spread throughout our society?

The church in Philadelphia was commended for their endurance in following Jesus even in the midst of trials. When Jesus encourages this church He calls the Jews who are making their lives hard a “synagogue of Satan.” The word for Satan means “adversary” or “accuser;” Jesus’ words were not an attack against Jews in general, but a reference to Jews in Philadelphia who denounced Jewish Christians before Roman officials for not being “true Jews.” In Philadelphia, as in other places, Jewish Christians were being excommunicated from their synagogues for following Christ. Jews were exempt from participation in the emperor worship cult, but Jewish Christians, because of their exclusion from the Jewish community, did not enjoy the same legal protection.

Read Revelation 3:7-13

What do you think of when you think of endurance?

The Door: An open door in the scriptures usually refers to an opportunity to further the Gospel. Jesus says that those persecuting this church will see the endurance and commitment to the mission of the Gospel displayed by the church in Philadelphia; this will lead to the ability to these believers to share the truth of Jesus. Endurance often means there is a period of suffering that someone had to go through in order to get to the goal, here the goal is sharing the truth of the Gospel.

Have you ever experienced a chance to talk about Jesus after a prolonged season of faithfulness?

The Key: The key is Jesus letting us know that He is in charge of everything, including our lives. Christians are able to grow through the midst of suffering because we suffer under authority. It’s not until trouble comes into our lives that we dig down and realize how we must trust Jesus and see Him as He truly is to persevere. If there is anything but Jesus that is our light and our salvation, our lives will crumble and we will not endure.

How do you experiencing pain and suffering?

Do you find yourself enduring in your faith when you are suffering?

The Pillar: The pillar is something solid and immovable. In ancient ruins the only things that stood after these earthquakes are the pillars from the temples. To be a pillar means that sometimes we don’t always know the why or the meaning of our suffering, but we know that our suffering has a point and will come to an end. We know it comes to an end because Jesus came and took it into Himself.

What things is Jesus beginning to crumble in your life because you worship IT more than Him? How are you fighting that?

How can you embrace Jesus in the midst of Him allowing things to crumble?

How obedient are you to Jesus in the middle of your troubles?

How can we become a people who say, “we denied ourselves, took up the cross of Christ, and followed Him?”