

The background of the slide features a faded, grid-patterned image of ancient stone ruins. On the left, there are palm trees and a large, rounded stone structure. On the right, a tall, rectangular stone wall or tower stands prominently. In the center, there are more ruins, including a smaller tower and various stone blocks. The overall scene is set in a hazy, atmospheric environment.

THE CHURCH THAT PERSEVERED

AN EXAMINATION OF THE CHURCH OF
PHILADELPHIA
REV 3:7-13

modern day
TURKEY



Pergamos



Smyrna



Ephesus



Laodicea



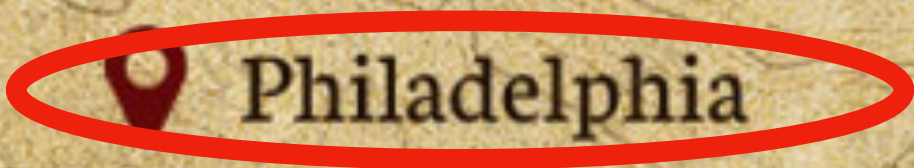
Thyatira



Sardis



Philadelphia





LAODICEA

- Wretched
- Miserable
- Poor
- Blind
- Naked



Lukewarm - Complacent

PERGAMUM

- Held fast Jesus Name
- Did not deny my faith (even when Antipas was killed)
- Courageous in the face of death
- However, Neutral vs Action



Sin of Neutrality

EPHESUS

- Active workers in the Kingdom
- They tested those who claimed to be apostles
- Persevered and refused to tolerate false teaching
- Did not lose heart during their tribulations
- However, they left their first love



Left their first love

SMYRNA

- 1 of 2 that received only praise
- Withstanding tribulation even in the face of poverty
- Resisted the false accusations of the Jews
- Warned that even more tribulation was coming



Living faithfully through persecution

SARDIS

- History of wealth, invented the coin system we use today.
- Perceived as alive to the world, but God saw them as dead
- Some in the group had remained faithful
- Repent because Jesus will come as a thief



Alive to the world, but dead to God

THE CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA

- 105 miles from Smyrna
- Today known as Alashehir.
- Nickname “Little Athens”
- Fertile soils in the plains
- Church longevity



THE CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA

Revelation 3: 7 “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens": "

- 5 statements that Jesus makes about himself
 - He who is Holy: Mark 1:24, Acts 3:14
 - He who is True: 1 John 5:20
 - He who has the key of David: Isaiah 9:6-7, Ephesians 1:10-12
 - He who opens and no one shuts: Isaiah 22:22
 - He who shuts and no one opens: 2 Samuel 7:16

THE CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA

Revelation 3: 8 "I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. "

- Philadelphia was an important city to spread Greek influence
- Open door = teaching the gospel: Acts 14:27 and 1 Corinthians 16:8-9, Colossians 4:2-4
- Little Strength
- Not denying God: Luke 10:16, Luke 12:8-9
- There is work to do: John 4:35, Romans 12:1

THE CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA

Revelation 3: 9 "Indeed I will make [those] of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie--indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you."

- The Jews had been and continued to be ruthless:
 - John 9:22 His parents said these [things] because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed [that] He [was] Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue.
 - John 12:42 Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess [Him], lest they should be put out of the synagogue;
- Spiritual focus versus Physical: Romans 2:28-29

THE CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA

Revelation 3: 10 “Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”

- To persevere no matter what
 - Difficult times always exist. And in this case, all 7 churches were being told that more difficult times were coming.
- Christians have a hope and an assurance:
 - 1 Corinthians 10:13 “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God [is] faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear [it].

THE CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA

Revelation 3: 11 "Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown."

- Christians can loose what we have:
 - 1 Corinthians 10:12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.
 - Hebrews 4:1 Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.
- NO one but ourselves can remove our crown:
 - John 10:28-29 "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 "My Father, who has given [them] to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch [them] out of My Father's hand"

THE CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA

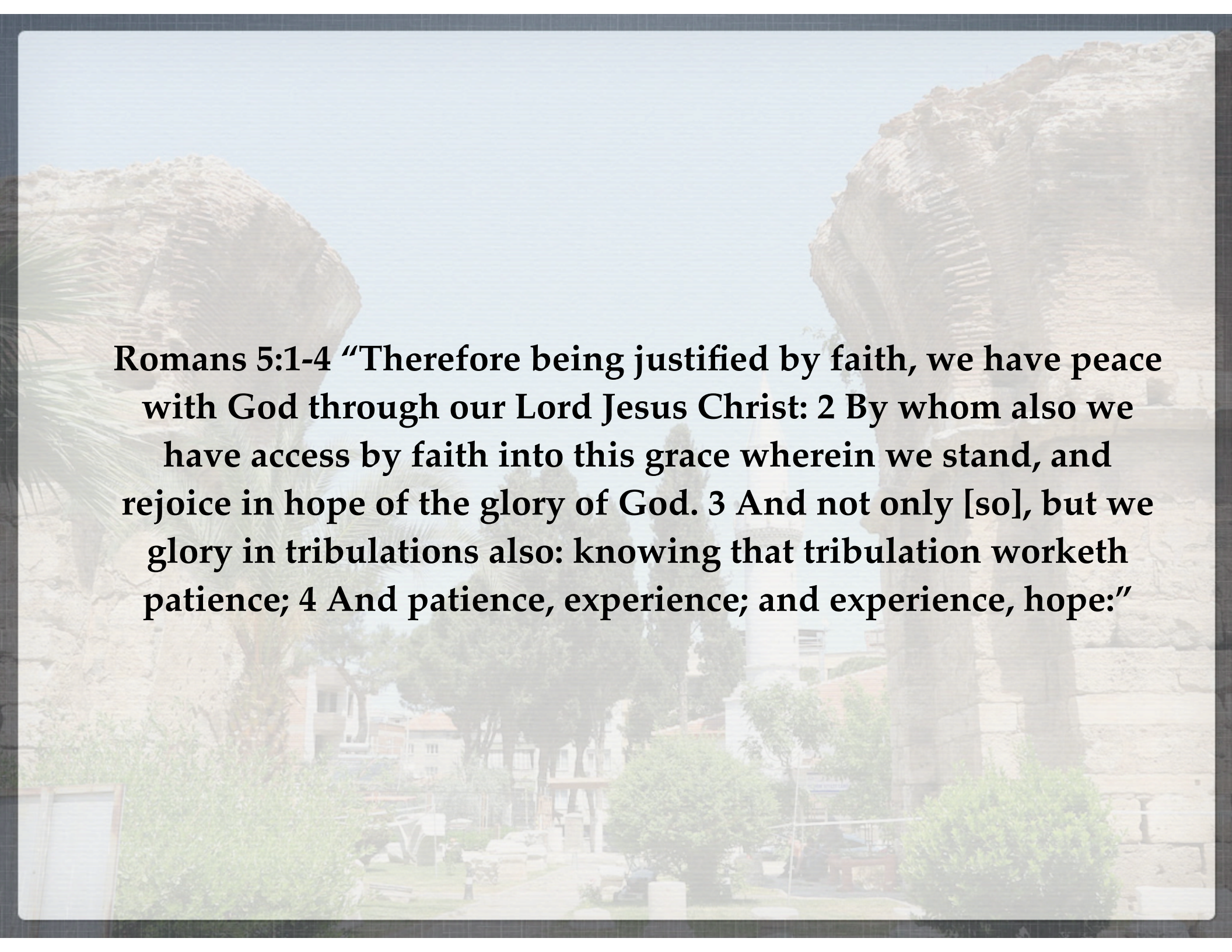
Revelation 3: 12 "He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And [I will write on him] My new name."

- This is not talking about the end of time, but instead the promise to those who will remain faithful
 - They will become pillars in God's house: Psalm 84:10-12
 - Pillars are a part of the structure: 1 Corinthians 3:16
 - The makeup of the temple: Ephesians 2:19-22
 - God's plan for the eternal temple: Revelation 7:15-17
- Write means to be identified: Psalm 89:11, Acts 11:26

THE CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA

Revelation 3: 13 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

- Jesus starts and ends each letter to the churches the exact same way
- We want to hear and not be those who don't
 - Matthew 13:14-17 "And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: 'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive; 15 For the hearts of this people have grown dull. [Their] ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with [their] eyes and hear with [their] ears, Lest they should understand with [their] hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.' 16 "But blessed [are] your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; 17 "for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous [men] desired to see what you see, and did not see [it], and to hear what you hear, and did not hear [it]."



Romans 5:1-4 "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: 2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only [so], but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; 4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope:"