

Revelation 3 (Conrad Bowman) (March 30, 2008)

We've covered the letter to the church in Sardis, so we're getting ready to attack the rest of the book; and so I just reached on my shelf and filled up the briefcase over there with stuff off the shelf on Revelation so you could get a good glimpse at it. Nothing over there is off the wall. I left all that stuff out. I've got a bunch of that, but it was no sense in bringing it. So over there you've got Hamilton Smith, that's been out of print for a hundred years. You've got Laymen Strauss – it's excellent. There's one over here that's in particular – we'll get it and bring it back. There's things to come by Dwight Pentecost, and that's when he was writing strictly off dispensational platform; and it's just a great study. This one is called, *The Unfolding of the Ages*, Ford Ottman; and it's from Kregel Publications in England. It was first printed in 1905. This is an excellent, excellent study of Revelation, and it's still available on the internet. New from Cregal it's about \$15 to \$19 dollars. It depends on where you find it, plus shipping. But I saw just a number of copies that were available from individual book sellers in the \$9 to \$10 range, and I highly recommend it. Ford Ottman – *Unfolding of the Ages – Studies in Revelation*. And then there's Clarence Larkin. You know Clarence Larkin's book with the big illustrations. It opens up. His book is called, *The Greatest Book in the World on Dispensational Truth*. A non-pretentious title. [Laughter]. Well, this is Larkin's study just on the Book of Revelation. It's got a lot of good charts in it; a lot of good illustrations; it's been around quite a while; and it's still in print and still available. So those two are highly recommended, along with any of the others that you might see over there that you might have trouble getting some of them. And then there were some copies of past notes from studies on Philippians, and Ephesians, and Colossians, and several others that are over there. There're just extra copies that I had in the file. I pulled them all out and brought them down here to see if anybody wants them you're free to take them.

Revelation chapter 3, is where I am. Good morning, Irma.

Irma Davis. Good morning sir.

Conrad Bowman. How are you, dear. Looking good this morning. We're in chapter 3. Ok. Revelation chapter 3 – the first part of the chapter is on the church at Sardis; and we've covered that thoroughly. Move down to verse 7.

7. And to the angel of the church at Philadelphia write: He who is holy, He who is true ...

The word "holy" is the same word we get "saint" from. *Hagios*. And it means "set apart." So when you apply it to a person as a noun, it's the "set apart one." One who is set apart. When you talk about it in terms of the sacrifice, it's the sacrifice that was set apart. And it's the same concept as Christ who was set apart and tried and tested and beaten and scourged to prove that He was the acceptable sacrifice of God. You remember when in the Old Testament, when he used to take an animal sacrifice, they had to separate it from the herd for three days. And during those three days they penned it up. They segregated it and penned it up to test it and see that it was without blemish. It wasn't ill. It didn't have any disease or anything, and that's what was representative of the testing period of the Lord Himself. It also says that same thing about us, because we are declared to be holy, or set apart, unto God. And during that set apart period God tests us. He tests us to make sure we are in fact His. Now that doesn't mean that our salvation is tenuous for that period. It does mean thought that we go through our own individual period of testing. This is going to be real important because the first thing we're going to talk about, as we move on into the Book of Revelation, and study the balance of it, the first thing we're going to encounter is the Rapture of the Church – when does it occur? There're some people that say it occurs before the Tribulation begins. They're others that say it occurs in the middle of the Tribulation – just before the final three and one-half years of wrath; when God really pours out His anger and wrath on the earth; and they're some people that say it occurs at the end of that period – that Tribulation Period – just before the Millennial Kingdom. And then there are others even still who say, naw, it's at the end of the Millennial Kingdom; that the Church is taken with everybody else. So you've got four different views here actually of when the Rapture of the capturing of the Church takes place; and each one of them has it's own particularly points of emphasis. I'm of the opinion that the Rapture occurs before the anti-Christ is revealed and turned loose. And it occurs at the beginning of the Tribulation – or [actually] before the Tribulation Period. I'm a pre-Tribulationist in terms of the Rapture of the Church – when God will take us out, and spare us from that. It doesn't mean He spares us from all testing, because everyone of us are tested in order to be declared holy. We're set apart unto God.

7. To the angel of Philadelphia write: he who is holy [who is true], and who has the key of David [which identifies Him with Israel as well], who opens and no one shuts, and who shuts and no one opens, says this:

8. I know your deeds ...

He's said that consistently about every Church: I know your deeds. Behold ... And that doesn't mean He's really proud of them. That statement that "I know your deeds" is not a statement that's filled with pride. It's a statement that's filled with omissions. He knows your deeds thoroughly. Ok. You can't fake it.

8. I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which nobody can shut, because you have a little power ...

Ok. And "a little" is emphatic. Because "a little," you have power, is the way it's structured in the Greek; which means the emphasis is on the smallness of the power that you have.

8. ... and you have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

Ok. You don't have the full power of the Spirit, but you have just a little bit.

9. Behold, I will cause those of the ...

The thought occurs to me going through there that we look at Christendom as a whole – and you look at some of the apparitions that occur within Christianity. You'll find one group doing this; and one group doing this; and one group doing this. The tendency is to look at those different groups and say: Well, I know that's weird what they teach but they've got these fine missions in Africa that are feeding a lot of kids. I know this is a bit bizarre in terms of what they teach over here but they've got this mission in India that's doing great and reaching people that nobody else is reaching – you know. I know the Catholic Church has some very strange doctrines and they've got a Pope here who claims infallibility, but the Catholic Church is working in some areas that nobody else is going; so, shouldn't we cut them some slack? You see the way man thinks? We try to identify relative goodness in somebody and say: I know, I know they're really bad, but they do these good things. Ok? We do that especially with our own kids. Yeah, yeah, I know he beat the devil out of that little guy, but he's really a good kid. Well he might be a good kid, but he's bad. Mother had seven of us. She didn't make any mistake about it. You know. If she walked into a room with a belt, everybody in the room got a whipping. Ok.

Evelyn Wamble. Do you think our attitude should be that we should look for the depravity of people and recognize it?

Conrad Bowman. Mother did, and she didn't have to look long either. I mean we were thoroughly ...

Evelyn Wamble. It was obvious, huh?

Conrad Bowman. Yeah. We were thoroughly depraved. Yeah. Mom, Oh, I didn't do that. Well, this will teach you not to hang around evil doers. [Laughter]. You see. That's the way it works. We have to quit excusing aberrant behavior because of relative goodness; because kids will catch on real quick; and they'll start doing little nice things for you just so you'll overlook when they try to burn the house down. True? That's absolutely true. Well, that's a picture – we were talking. Does a soul go to heaven? Yeah, the soul goes to heaven, but that sucker's got to be scrubbed with a brush. You know. It's got to be washed with Tide until the hide's taken off of it until it's made ready. The soul has to be redeemed; has to be redeemed, because the soulish man receiveth not the things of God, neither can he know them. Now if you use the King James, it says "the natural man." And the word is "soulish." "Soulish." The soulish man. The man who thinks with his soul. It centers right here in his gut. It does things because it makes him feel good. Ok. And that can be bad things or good things. Doesn't matter. The soulish man receiveth not the things of God, neither can he know them. So even the good that the soulish man or woman does is tainted already. And we have to be honest about that. And the only way to do it, is to use the perfect standard of righteousness; and that's the Lord Himself who's revealed to us through His work. Ok. Any questions on that?

Evelyn Wamble. Do you think we tend to look for the good always because it makes us look good? Because we won't be viewed as being ...

Conrad Bowman. No. We look for the good always because we don't want to deal with people.

Evelyn Wamble. That's what it is.

Conrad Bowman. Sure. It's conflict avoidance. We'll avoid – most of us, most of us are conflict avoiders. You know. If we see conflict coming – if you see your brother and he's following a path and it's going to end up in disaster, you're reluctant to go to him and say: Man, I don't think you ought to do that. I don't think you ought to do that.

Evelyn Wamble. And that's not easy.

Conrad Bowman. No ma'am.

Evelyn Wamble. No. It's not easy.

Conrad Bowman. No ma'am. It's almost impossible. You know why? Because it requires you to come to the belief that your brother loves you enough to be able to take your advice that's from the heart and from the spirit within you. And we don't have those kind of relationships any more.

Evelyn Wamble. And ... telling us to be honest.

Conrad Bowman. That's right. And we just don't have those kind of relationships any more. In your lifetime you will be extremely fortunate if you will have five people that you have that kind of relationship to. You just don't have them, do you?

Evelyn Wamble. I agree.

Conrad Bowman. Why? Because the first thing you have to do, you have to be operating on the same level of the truth.

Evelyn Wamble. You have to have the same standard.

Conrad Bowman. You have to have the same standard. You have to believe some things in common. You can't – one guy believe this is true, and the other guy believe this is true; and come to some common agreement about what is true if you moosh the two together – to use one of Phil's favorite words. It just doesn't work that way. You know. I can say that about the seven boys in my family; my six brothers. You know. We didn't have that kind of relationship, and my relationship with each one of them is different; based upon what they were taking in on the Word; and my age and maturity in the Word. When we put those things together, they were different. They were different. So probably, you'll find, as did I, that the soul brother or sister that you find in your life comes from outside of your family; and not within, but within your spiritual family; and that's very, very important, because that's what the Body is all about. The Body is providing an environment in which you can find those kind of people that you can trust, and lean on,

7. ... the one who's holy [who is true], and who has the key of David, who opens and no one shuts, and who shuts and no one opens, says this:

Betijean Kennerly. And that's Jesus. It talks about Jesus. The one that has the key of David now ...

Conrad Bowman. Yes ma'am. Yes ma'am. That's the Lord Himself, who has the key of David.

8. I know your deeds. Behold, I put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power and have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

9. Behold, I will cause those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews but are not, but lie ...

So it was operating at this time, and still is today, those who say they are Jews in terms of their relationships to God, but are not – they're lying about that.

9. ... Behold, I will make them to` come and bow down at your feet, and to know that I have loved you.

Verse 10.

10. Because you have kept the word of My perseverance [of My perseverance], I also will keep you from the hour of testing [and that's the testing, so it's talking about specific], that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell upon the earth.

So this is talking about a very specific test; and the "the" in there points you directly to the day of tribulation, the hour of tribulation, which is the last three and a half years of Daniel's prophecy. Ok.

John Young. If I may ask real quick, then did somebody who is a mid-Tribulation/Rapture guy can use that to support their – because I was just getting ready to say that supports the Rapture before ...

Conrad Bowman. Mid-Tribulation Rapture.

John Young. But they can use it to support mid-Tribulation/Rapture.

Conrad Bowman. Right. Yes ma'am?

Joyce Wood. [Comment about "my perseverance in verse 10].

Conrad Bowman. My perseverance.

Joyce Wood. [comment about the language to command to persevere].

Conrad Bowman. In other words, you remember, he's talking about the overcomers in the previous church. The overcomers who are going to be given a rod of iron to rule over the Gentiles through the Millennium. So that's – the overcomers are those who have persevered according to His ...

Evelyn Wamble. Through the Tribulation.

Conrad Bowman. Yes. Yes.

Evelyn Wamble. So that's directed to them.

Conrad Bowman. Yes, because what He said to them was, except men endure to the end – Ok. You have to endure to the end. That's the perseverance He's talking about. That's His command of perseverance. Ok. So you've kept the word of My perseverance. I will also keep you from the hour of the testing. That hour which is about to come upon the whole world to test those who dwell upon the earth. And it's important, because that testing is a universal testing of the entire world. That's when the waters are going to be contaminated; earthquakes; all sorts of natural disturbances.

Evelyn Wamble. That's the latter part of the Tribulation.

Conrad Bowman. Yes ma'am. The last there and a half years. The last three and a half years.

Evelyn Wamble. So that doesn't apply to us as believers that have died already.

Conrad Bowman. That's right. That's right. All who have been Raptured.

Evelyn Wamble. Right. Have been Raptured. Right.

Conrad Bowman. Yes.

Dee Varnadore. [Comment. Inaudible].

Evelyn Wamble. I hope that's where I am.

Conrad Bowman. Well, you can take my word for it.

Betijean Kennerly. You're going to be the only one left, Evelyn. [Laughter].

Conrad Bowman. You have obviously aggravated her this week. You really have. She's leaving you here. [Laughter]. We're going to write an amendment to the *Left Behind* series that say, this is the Evelyn ... [Laughter].

Alright. So this one addresses that period of time. Now what that tells us is that this church, this church in Philadelphia is talking about the church that's moving up toward the nearness of that period coming on. Ok. And that's exactly what it is. We are living in the Philadelphian church. Now there are other qualities that are here in the church today; but we're living in the Philadelphian church if you want to look at it in terms of it's time unfolding.

11. I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, in order that no one takes your crown [your crown].

12. He who overcomes, I am going to make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and 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'm going to write on him My new name.

13. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

So the church in Philadelphia of brotherly love, is the church that's moving up to the Tribulation Period. But the period of Tribulation, he's going to be kept out of. And I believe that works perfectly with Thessalonians in the taking away or catching away the Rapture of the Church. Now,

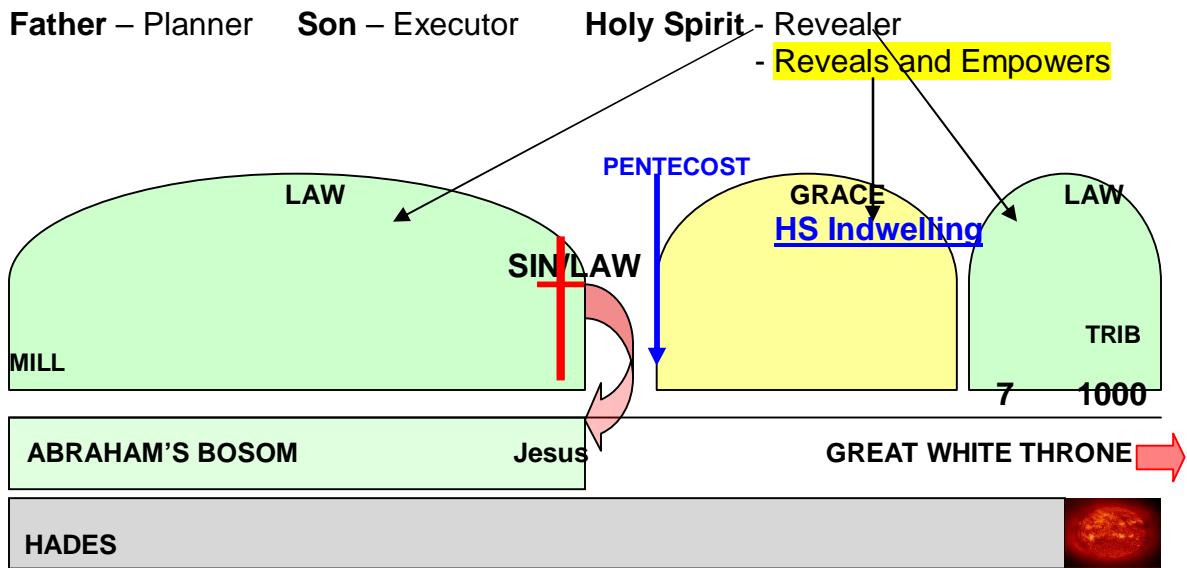
12. He who overcomes, I am going to make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city

...

Isn't this interesting that he's talking about a church – a New Testament church – and then he launches these comments that indicate temple worship in an organization that seems to be based on Law. Now the only way you can get there is to recognize that the church that he's talking about is a church that ...

[Conrad goes to the Board and puts depiction on the Board].

THE CONFLICT OF THE AGES



Here's the Church Age. Here's the catching away right here, the Rapture of the Church. And then here's the Tribulation Period which starts sometime after the Rapture of the Church. We don't know how long this period is; but it starts with that treaty between Israel – a peace treaty between Israel and the King of the North. That sets off this seven year period. The seven year period is divided into two three and one half years periods. This is called the Great Tribulation of the Day of Wrath. This is also the Tribulation Period but during this period, the anti-Christ gains strength by being a – boy he's slick. He is as smooth as can be because he's guaranteeing peace. I can see a scenario happening where somebody comes down and takes the gathering armies of Russia, which are regenerating themselves, and using them because they've been out of the fight. The whole Middle East is mad at America, and angry with us, and angry with Israel; and the focus is there. And if somebody comes in from, say Russia is a possibility; somebody came in from Russia and says we can put a small army in there and guarantee you peace in the Middle East. And also guarantee you fair and free distribution of the oil resources in the Middle East, because we'll stabilize that area. So just send your representatives in here and we'll be the policemen and stabilize this whole thing; and we'll make sure that oil is distributed fairly to each one of the nations; and take those arrogant consuming fools in America out of the way; and they won't have the strength and power that they had in here. And I can see the world just cowering down to that guy in a heartbeat. They'd love him.

Evelyn Wamble. He's Dr. Charlie. He's going to be Dr. Charlie, isn't he?

Conrad Bowman. Sure could. They could set that thing up in a heartbeat.

So, during that period of time, he gives Israel the freedom to go in there and rebuild their Temple – in that first three and one-half years – that second Temple. And it appears that he is catering to them a bit, which he is. And three and a half years into that, his whole attitude changes. And all at once he sets up – here comes Daniel. He sets up the abomination and makes it desolate.

Evelyn Wamble. Desolation

Conrad Bowman. He sets the idol up in the Temple that looks just like, in my opinion, is going to look like every statue of Christ that we've come to believe is fairly accurate. It's going to look like what we've already depicted Christ to look like. Ok. And he's going to go ahead and set that Temple up. The problem is, everybody is going to have to bow down to that thing, and worship it. And the idols are going to be given the power of life and death over those who don't. And that's going to be a hard, hard thing to deny by people who don't know anything at all about the power of Satan. They won't deny it. They'll believe what they see, and it'll be all over the world. And that puts us here. Right here. Three and a half years. [Conrad pointing to the 2nd three and one-half year period of the Tribulation]. And those armies gather strength. Israel then becomes anathema to the whole world. They're the problem. They're the problem of all the wars and all the death and destruction and everything else that's gone on. So he's going to say, well, it's a little bitty country with just a few people. We can handle that. Why don't we just get together; go on down there; take them over; get rid of the troublemakers in there; and just occupy that nation; and they're going to move on them across what Napoleon called the greatest battlefield the world has every known; and that's the fields around Megiddo. And they'll gather those armies around Megiddo to move into and across the nation of Israel. And to do that, they've got to come right by the mountain; and Christ is going to hit that mountain with a sword in His hand and fire in His eyes; and deliver His chosen nation, the remnant of them, into the Millennial Kingdom. And that's the way I – in general, that's a one span synopsis of the way this book is going. And in order to get that, you have to get familiar with parables of Matthew. We touched on some of those recently; and Daniel, chapters 9 through about 11; and Revelation; and put those together. That's where we're going with this course. That's what we're going to be doing in the next few months.

Discussion.

Lady. Ok. We're Raptured and then the Tribulation. What about the Holy Spirit? Because I have heard this song too – but they can still become Christians? I'm hearing all men can become believers; after the Rapture?

Conrad Bowman. It's tough. It's tough. As a matter of fact ...

Lady. [Comment. Inaudible].

Conrad Bowman. Think about it. Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin. It's an absolute principle of Scripture that spans everything. Having rejected the blood of Christ to get there. That's how they got into the Tribulation Period to begin with; they rejected the blood of Christ. So here they are in the Tribulation Period. And they're going to accept Christ's sacrifice now on their behalf

Lady. The Church is gone.

Conrad Bowman. And the Church is gone.

Lady. And the Holy Spirit is gone.

Conrad Bowman. Yeah. And Baptism is gone. Ok. Because the water Baptism only speaks to the Baptism of Christ. What is the Baptism that symbolizes their acceptance? It's their own blood.

Lady. It's what?

Conrad Bowman. It's their own blood. See, because to accept Christ in the Tribulation Period – if you accept Christ, you're not going to accept Christ and be quiet about it. If you accept Christ and declare it before men ...

Lady. You're dead.

Conrad Bowman. You're dead.

Lady. You're pretty much martyred.

Conrad Bowman. Yes. You're immediately identified by the anti-Christ and are martyred.

Lady. Do the overcomers become believers before the Holy Spirit left?

Conrad Bowman. Overcomers – see overcomers – this command to overcomers – these commands – this whole generation of people who are facing this started right back here. And it includes – it started way back here. There were overcomers that were here, and here, and here, and here, and here. And then they pass away as the Church Age goes. And then the Church Age ends and this great parenthesis is taken out; and this period (Church Age) slams up against this period (Tribulation Period). And this one is removed; and so what you have is the voice of prophecy speaking to people in this Age – that's what John was seeing – speaking to people in this Age; Christ said, this generation will not pass away until the Son of Man returns in His glory. That's the generation that started here and continues here. See, there's continuity in all of this. All we need to do is just let Scripture say what Scripture says.

Lady. They're the ones that are going into the Millennium?

Conrad Bowman. Pardon?

Lady. They're going into the Millennium?

Conrad Bowman. Yes ma'am.

Lady. And we're going to be at the marriage feast?

Conrad Bowman. Yeah, but when you think about the Marriage Supper of the Lamb and Marriage Feast, you think about the Marriage Feast as taking place from the time the Church is taken – here's the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Then the Tribulation Period happens. And here's the ongoing celebration for a thousand years; and it starts here and ends here. I want to make sure that you understand that this is a continued marriage celebration. This is the Marriage Supper; and those that are saved during the Tribulation Period join them in the Millennial Reign, but not retroactively. You see, let the Marriage Supper stand where it stands; and let the Millennial Reign start here where it does and go here for a thousand years. The overcomers who were taken here, and went into Abraham's Bosom, and were taken with Christ to the Marriage Supper are here. The ones who are overcomers during the Tribulation Period are taken from the time of their death, or either if they survive to the end, are taken and join that celebration here as guests.

Lady. They're guests?

Conrad Bowman. Yeah. They're guests of the Groom. They're not the Bride. They're not the Bride. The Bride is ...

Lady. [Inaudible – something about the overcomers being servants of the King].

Conrad Bowman. Yes. They're servants of the King. Yes. The overcomers are servants, but they have a special status ...

Lady. [Inaudible] ... the New Jerusalem that comes down.

Conrad Bowman. Right.

Lady. So that's their real estate?

Conrad Bowman. That's their real estate. See, now remember, we're still talking about things associated with time; because all of that is taking place within the confines of time. After all this is over, everything that we've seen, heaven and earth, passed away. And then we have a new heavens and a new earth coming down from God; and this is beyond the Great White Throne Judgment – new heaven and new earth comes down, and there's where their eternal real estate and promises are given to them; and that's where our eternal condition as the Bride of Christ takes place; all the way down here. See, so we're still talking about time, in here.

Evelyn Wamble. Ok, I'll tell you the subject. But this abomination, or desolation, or anti-Christ, do we know where he comes from? From what? Where?

Conrad Bowman. The abomination, desolation, is ...

Evelyn Wamble. Where does he ...

Conrad Bowman. It's an idol. That's an idol.

Evelyn Wamble. I'm talking about the man, the actual anti-Christ.

Conrad Bowman. You're talking about the anti-Christ himself?

Evelyn Wamble. He is not the abomination?

Conrad Bowman. No. The abomination is ...

Evelyn Wamble. We don't refer to him as the abomination?

Conrad Bowman. No. That's the image. The image is the – see that's what's so confusing, Evelyn. This is what's so amazing. The world will look at this idol, and that smooth talking rascal behind him who calls him into life; and then give the idol the power of life and death over men. How many people, without the enlightenment of the Spirit, and spiritual light, can withstand that and call it a lie? It's not going to happen. It's not going to happen. Men will believe that. So they take it, hook, line, and sinker; and they just go into that. Now that idol is set up, is going to – the abomination that maketh desolate, is going to be the image of the anti-Christ that's set up in the temple.

Evelyn Wamble. Ok. This man.

Conrad Bowman. The man.

Evelyn Wamble. Is coming out.

Conrad Bowman. I don't know who he is.

Evelyn Wamble. Do we know if he's Jewish?

Conrad Bowman. No.

Evelyn Wamble. Do we know if he's Roman?

Conrad Bowman. No.

Evelyn Wamble. We don't know where he comes from. We don't know.

Conrad Bowman. No. All we know – we know something about him. What we know about him is, he's smooth, he's charismatic, and easily believable; and he regards not the God of his fathers. He leaves the God of his fathers, and discards that belief.

John Young. Do we have a clue as to when he gets his head wound?

Conrad Bowman. No. No.

Evelyn Wamble. Gets his what, John?

Conrad Bowman. Gets his head wound. He is a man ...

John Young. He has a severe head wound that he survives.

Evelyn Wamble. Oh that's right. I forgot about his head wound.

Betijean Kennerly. He should have died, but he didn't.

Evelyn Wamble. So we don't know about that either.

Conrad Bowman. No. We don't know when that occurs. We just know that that marks him as – yes ma'am?

Mary Ann Jacobsen. [Inaudible] ... and they were talking about the chip they put animals. They're getting permission now for children so that you'll know – that's where your teenage ... [inaudible].

Conrad Bowman. Listen, I've got a brother that's been in genetic research for a number of years. We talked about this a long time ago. Twenty years ago, we developed rabbits that had rat blood, and converse. You could take a blood sample from one of these rabbits and sent it to the lab, and they'd say, you have a fine younger rat. Just keep feeding him good food and he'll do fine. His young would have rabbit blood true to type and cross match. Now, the reason we were doing that was preliminary. The Russians took it one step further. They had pigs for almost twenty years that have human blood, and have young that have human blood, true to type and cross match for almost three years. Ok. Pigs. Now the beauty of that is – let's take the upside. Let's say you have to go into surgery, and it's going to be a real rough procedure; and you had a particularly sensitive blood type. You could get your local lab to take a pig and genetically alter their blood where the pig would produce your rare blood type in case you needed it for an operation. You'd always have this block of pigs around. We've moved further than that now; because now you can grow a liver, or an extra heart, or whatever, in the pig. It's your own personal parts shop. It's like O'Reilly. You know. You need a new carburetor for your car, you go to O'Reilly's and they give you one. You know.

Lady. Sell you one.

Conrad Bowman. Yeah. You can imagine what these carburetors cost. You see what we've done, is man and his ingenuity – and his ingenuity is God given – we've moved to the point were we want to insure by our own devices and ingenuity – we want to insure that we can live an unending life if we can. Man is latching on to this life and hanging on to it desperately. Ok. Now only one of the symptoms is this preoccupation with youth. I don't sleep well at night; so I'm up

at night watching – well it must be about forty-five different devices that will give you rock-hard abs. [Laughter]. There must be a hundred creams out there - \$29.95 shipped automatically and bill your credit card once a month, that'll remove these little lines right here.

Lady. That's your character mark.

Conrad Bowman. I know that. So we're talking about characterless people, aren't we? [Laughter]. You see, we're occupied with this thing. We're terrified of getting older. We long ago lost our – lost our reverence for wisdom that comes with age and white hair. We just don't think that way any longer. We want to persevere and substitute youthful vitality for all of that. But youthful vitality will just get you killed. [Laughter]. Ray?

Ray Johnson. Yeah. I've got a question for you.

Conrad Bowman. Yes sir.

Ray Johnson. Second Thessalonians, 2:3 and 4, where it says,

3. ... for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition,
4. who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped ...

And I've got a question. That's not just Christians; that's all Gods. Anything that's called God anywhere in the world, he's going to be exalted himself above that; if I understand who he is. This guy is not just going to put down Christianity. He's going to put down anything that has a concept of God except him.

Conrad Bowman. Right.

Ray Johnson. He's going to put down Islam, he's going to put down all

Conrad Bowman. Yeah, it won't make any difference. It won't make any difference. It'll be the ultimate ecumenical movement.

Ray Johnson. Ok.

Conrad Bowman. Ok. And once in he will become the Pope to the whole world, is one way to put that.

Alright. Now [looking at the clock] [Laughter] – we made more progress than I thought. Ok. Any other questions on the Church at Philadelphia at this point? This class today has been a mixture of identifying this next church and also finishing up some questions that were hanging over from week before last. By the way, that was a really good class – the week before last. It was kind of free-for-all, for those of you who weren't here. It quickly devolved into just questions and answers; and I thought it was a great class.

Betijean Kennerly. It's very important to ask

Conrad Bowman. Yeah. It shows us kind of exactly where we were on this thing, which is good at this jumping off place.

Alright, very quickly, in verse 14,

14. To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this:

15. I know your deeds ...

Boy, that keeps coming up. I wish it wouldn't.

Evelyn Wamble. He keeps saying that, doesn't he?

Conrad Bowman. Yes, he keeps saying that; and I have a feeling he's not talking about the good things that I've been in my life. [Laughter].

15. I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I would that you were cold or hot.

"Tepid," man "tepid," what a terrible word that is.

16. So because you are lukewarm [tepid], and neither hot nor cold, I going to spit you out of My mouth.

I'm going to spew you out of my mouth, is what the *King James* says.

17. Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," [Inaudible] and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked,

18. I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire that you may become rich, and white garments that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes that you may see.

19. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; be zealous therefore and repent.

That word "discipline" means to scourge; to scourge; to skin alive with a whip, is what it means. Those whom I love reprove and skin alive with a whip. Be zealous therefore and change your mind. Repent.

20. Behold, I stand at the door and I am knocking; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I am going to come into him and will dine with him, and he with Me.

You see, Christ is not in this time. He's out of it. And that goes right back to what we were talking about before. The Spirit's not there; the Lord's not there. The Lord is standing at the door knocking ...

Evelyn Wamble. From the outside.

Conrad Bowman. From the outside.

Evelyn Wamble. And He's still offering grace. Still He's offering grace.

Conrad Bowman. Gracious offer. That doesn't mean it's going to be easy. But it's still a gracious offer.

20. ...I'm going to dine with him and he with Me.

21. He who overcomes [and there's that overcomer again], I going to grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

22. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.""

So we end this thing with an appeal to the overcomers again, don't we? So you're going to face it. What makes up the majority of our prayer? "Father deliver me from the circumstance in which I find myself." I'm suffering this, this, this, this and this. Help me from that. If we're not careful, we let that limit our prayers to other people. John's sick, he's having a heart attack. We need to pray for him. Father, correct his heart attack. You know. We're constantly praying for our kids. My kids are in this kind of trouble. Father, get them out of that kind of trouble. Show me how to Listen. We spend most of our prayer time in our life praying to remove the very things that God has allowed to come in order to move us from where we are to where He wants us to be. Ok. Pray for strength to endure. Pray for strength to overcome, because God rewards overcomers. Ok. He does not reward those who run away from the challenge, but those who patiently endure. And you can do that. Ok. Hold your questions until next week. It's going to be tough. You want to get back to it.

Thank you Father for the time You gave us today. Just bless us this week in our efforts, and just keep our eyes open to where Your Spirit is laying down His footsteps, and just keep us putting our feet in His prints, one step at a time. Thank You in Christ's name, because He paid for it all. Amen.

Thank you so very much.