**Vs. 10** speaks of the "**word of my patience**' and how that the church of Philedelphia has **kept** it. Because they have kept it, the LORD will keep them from the "**hour of temptation**". He did not say that He would keep them from temptation but from the **hour** of temptation! Whatever this "***hour of temptatio***n" is, we know that it will come to try or test or judge all that dwell on the earth. "**They**" that dwell on the earth are all those who are left behind at the **rapture**. The hour of temptation is the **seven year** Tribulation! The Philedelphian church is the **true** church as opposed to the Laodecean church which is **apostate**. Only **born again** believers will be raptured; only **possessors** not **professors**!

My underdstanding is that the "***word of my patience***" has to do with the fact that the church in Philedelphia had **kept His word** (**Vs.8**); they did not tamper with it or change it. It was this word (**KJV 1611**) that had sustained them for **400** years. From this "***word***" the church understood that it would be some **2000 years** from the resurrection of Christ to His return again to set up His kingdom. From His word they also understood that there would be a rapture or catching away of the true church before a seven year tribulation would take place. For two thousand years this church had waited patiently. They had endured hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ. They had suffered persecution and martyrdom. Through all of the trials and temptations, all they had to go on was the "**word of His patience**"! In spite of all the **opposition** and **hardships** they looked and longed for the rapture. They **patiently** waited. They didn't listen to the **scoffers**!

**2Pe 3:3** ***Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts****,*

**2Pe 3:4** ***And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation***.

From our perspective it seems like a long time. We keep thinking, “Maybe today.” Will he come in our lifetime? We don't know. With the current events in the world, excitement begins to grow! God's concept of time differs from man's. The following passage illustrates the difference.

***Luk 18:7 And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?***

***:8 I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?***

See the contrast: “*though he bear long with them*?”; “*he will avenge them speedily.*” Which is it? It depends upon your perspective!

**2Pe\_3:8** *But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord* ***as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day****.*

This seven year period is known as the “***time of Jacob's trouble***”. (**Jer. 30:7**) God has raptured His church and now He begins to deal once again with the nation of Israel in particular and the whole lost world in general. He will use the gentile nations as instruments of judgment on Israel and then He will come and judge them! The church will be kept from this. We will be spared this!

**1Th\_5:9** *For* ***God hath not appointed us to wrath****, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,*

The church is the body of Christ*.***(Col. 1:18,24; Eph. 1:22,23)**

**Jesus already has suffered the wrath of God on the cross. He bore in His body our sins! Our sins, we, who comprise the church, our sins were judged in His body on the tree!**

1Pe\_2:24*Who his own self* ***bare our sins in his own body*** *on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.*

The “**body of Christ” has already been judged!** Why would God judge it again? That would be an admission that the judgment poured out on the cross wasn't sufficient. We know that is not so because of what is said in (**Isa.53: 10-12**). God was ***satisfied*** with the sacrifice!

As for Tribulation saints who will be reading this, notice that He will shorten their wait as well. They will be crying out to Him for deliverance given the terrible persecution they will be under!

The admonition in **Vs. 11** is to hold fast to what you have! Don't let anyone steal your crown. This is not salvation but your ***rewards***.

**2Jn\_1:8** *Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but* ***that we receive a full reward***. Crown or rewards are earned. See (**1 Cor. 9:24-27**)

He says, “***Behold, I come quickly***:” Remember the difference in perspective!

**Vs. 12** tells us that all overcomers will be made **pillars** in God's temple. Remember that we are in Christ and because of our position, we are overcomers. The word “***pillar***” is used here in the same sense as **Gal. 2:9; 1 Tim. 3:15**. These are people who stood strong for the faith. They were examples of faithfulness and devotion; of love and sacrifice. They were weight bearers. They were supports and could be counted on; reliable and always in their place! They will be rewarded with prominent roles in God's temple. It was a practice in the pagan temples of Philedelphia to write the names of people who had been prominent and faithful to the state, on the pillars of the temple. It would seem that John used this as an illustration that they would all be familiar with. Obviously, all overcomers will not be turned into stony pillars. Here is a case where the context clearly shows the words to be **figuartive and not literal**.

Three things will be written on him (the pillar; the overcomer) **1.** **the name of my God**; **2.** **the name of the city of my God**; **3**. **my new name**.

1. The name of my God: It would seem that Jesus Christ is referring to His Father here. (**Matt. 27:46**) (**Rev. 14:1**) (**144,000**)

1. The name of the city of my God. This is the New Jerusalem. (**Vs. 12**)
2. My new name. (**Rev. 19:12, 13,16; 22:4**)

**Vs. 13** once again is an invitation for someone, anyone who has an ear, to listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. This applies to us as much as it did to those in John's day.