

The Parable of the PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

The Church at Philadelphia
and its corresponding Church Age¹
(A.D. 1798 to 1866)



Matthew 13:45-46 (NASB), ⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls,” ⁴⁶and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.



uke records the words of Jesus when He declared to us one of the keys to this parable, that it is He who has come to seek and save the lost.

Luke 19:9-10 (NASB), 9 And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

In this parable it is God, Jesus, Holy Spirit who seeks the lost of this world, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:8-10). What this merchant seeks is described as “**FINE PEARLS.**”



In this parable the fine pearls that is being sought after is you and I. We are the ones who are lost and need to be found. As in the Parable of the Treasure, a man found a treasure in a field and for **his** joy went and sold all that he had to buy the field. This is what Jesus did

¹ <http://dailyfood.ca/kingdom/kingdom6wed.html>

for us? Jesus give all he had and laid down His life so that we might be saved, redeemed by His blood.

The Parable of the Treasure and The Parable of the Pearl both reveals the high cost to God of acquiring His treasure who are like great pearls of great price in His Kingdom. As the church of Philadelphia was commended by Jesus saying that He sets before them an open door that no man can shut.

Revelation 3:7-8 (NASB),⁷“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this: ⁸‘I know your deeds. Behold, I have 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.

Jesus declares to the church in Philadelphia that He knows their deeds, (their works) the desire of their hearts. He has put an **OPEN DOOR** before them which no one can close. The open door of ministry was given to a church whose very name means **Brotherly Love**. Their name describes the charity and brotherly fellowship which was this church.

The Philadelphia church age was marked the revivals of 1739 with George Whitefield followed by John Wesley, Charles G. Finney and D. L. Moody.

Then came the “Open Door” of evangelism which no man could shut. In 1793 William Carey sailed from India, where he found an “Open Door,” and since then the Lord opened the door to China, Japan, Korea, India, and Africa and beyond until there is not a country in the world where the missionary cannot go.

Revelation 3:10-12 (NASB),¹⁰“Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that *hour* which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. ¹¹I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown. ¹²He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; ...”

Here we read of a covenant promise that Jesus made with the church of Philadelphia and as such with every other believer who has kept His word as they did. “I WILL KEEP YOU FROM THE HOUR OF TESTING WHICH SHALL COME UPON THE ENTIRE WORLD.” This hour of testing we call the Tribulation which begins in Revelation chapter six. Jesus told this church and those who continue on keeping His commandments and having faith ... You shall be delivered FROM this time of tribulation. This is one more proof that the church will be “caught out” of this world just prior to the beginning of the tribulation.