

WHAT BROOKDALE SHOULD STRIVE TO BE
Example: Philadelphia, The Loving Church, Rev. 3:7-13
Dr. Greg Tyree, BBC, Wednesday, August 25, 2004

INTRODUCTION:

Isn't it great to receive a commendation? Don't we all want to be recognized for our good? Surely, one of our innermost needs is to be respected. Think of some of the people in the Bible who were commended:

- There was Able, who offered the right sacrifice with the right attitude.
- And Job, who was pointed out by God, who asked Satan "Have you considered my servant Job?"
- Then there was Mary, of whom it was said "Blessed art thou among women."
- And of Christ it was noted "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."
- And the list goes on.

But while we desire commendation, we settle for mediocrity. I can remember my dad getting in trouble with the union guys at work because his hard and honest work made the rest of them look bad.

We all have probably taken advantage of the bell-curve in grading. And no one can deny that "made in America" doesn't have the same meaning that it used to.

Even churches have bought into this idea of mediocrity. Many church members just want to be "the average church member." They brag about how "average" their church is. No one wants to be considered "low-end," but many think it is a sin to be "a cut above the rest."

What about Brookdale? Do you want to be an average church? Just another church among many? Just the status quo? If not, there is good news!

There is a "model." There is a target at which to aim. There is a paradigm to emulate: The Church in Philadelphia.

PROPOSITION: In this passage we will make five observations of a Church in which Brookdale should attempt to emulate.

I. BROOKDALE SHOULD IMITATE THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST. Vs. 7.

- A. Consider The Destination of the Message.
- B. Consider The Description of the Messiah.

II. BROOKDALE SHOULD FACILITATE A REPUTATION OF CONSTANCY. Vs. 8.

- A. Notice Their Commendation.
- B. Notice Their Consistency.

III. BROOKDALE SHOULD ALLOCATE THE REVENGE OF CORRUPTION. Vs. 9.

- A. Note The Designation of the Corrupt Ones.
- B. Note The Disgrace of the Corrupt Ones.

IV. BROOKDALE SHOULD ANTICIPATE THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH. Vs. 10.

- A. See The Reward of the Rapture.
- B. See The Result of the Rapture.

V. BROOKDALE SHOULD APPRECIATE THE RETURN OF CHRIST. Vss. 11-13.

- A. Recognize The Immediateness of the Second-Coming. Vs. 11.
- B. Recognize The Initiation of the Saint. Vs. 12.
- C. Recognize The Instruction of the Savior. Vs. 13.

APPLICATION: