Holding On To What We Have  
Rev. 3:11

Introduction:
A. First three chapters of Revelation.
   1. Golden candlesticks representing churches like us.
   2. Resurrected and glorified Christ walking in their midst — to each “I know your works.”
      a. Ephesus: “Left first love” (2:4-5).
      b. Pergamas: Lost purity of doctrine, “repent”. (2:14-16)
      d. Sardis: Dead church (3:1).
      f. Smyna: Poor but rich ... be faithful. (2:9,10).
      g. Philadelphia (3:8, 11).
B. Admonition to Philadelphia in verse 11 has two timely implications:

Discussion:
I. It Is Possible to Lose What We Have.
   A. It can happen at any level of spiritual growth.
      1. Demas.
         a. Called a fellow-laborer by Paul (Phil. 24).
         b. Simply mentioned by Paul — little said (Col. 4:14).
         c. Last reference — “forsaken me.” (2 Tim. 4:10).
   2. Paul recognized danger to himself (1 Cor. 9:27).
   B. It can happen among the best of people.
      1. Judas with Christ and apostles.
   C. It can happen in any kind of place.
      1. Adam and Eve in garden of Eden.
      2. My teacher in “Christian School”
   D. It can happen to any church.
      2. Through discouragement from adversity, struggle and exhaustion.
      3. Through living too much in the past. (Cf. Phil 3:13, 14)
      4. Through biting and devouring one another. (Gal 5:15).
      5. Through doctrinal and moral softness. (2 Tim. 2:2-4; 1 Cor. 10:12).

II. It Is Possible to Hold What We Have.
   A. We have same resources and defenses that Philadelphia had.
      2. Same commission and promises. (Matt. 28:18-20; 1 Cor. 10:13).
      3. Same plan of salvation, same plan for church.
   B. We have be benefit of 2000 years of Christianity to strengthen our faith.
   C. We have same divine Overseer that encouraged Philadelphia.
      2. Still makes intercession for us. (Heb. 7:25).
      3. Still cleanses us with his blood. (1 John 1:7-9).
   D. We can be faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10).

Conclusion:
A. “Hold fast” not the same as “hold you own.”
B. Let us daily become more like Him who walks in midst of churches.