

THE UNVEILING OF JESUS CHRIST

"Philadelphia - The Faithful Church"

Revelation 3:7-13

INTRODUCTION:

1. The Church of Philadelphia - the Church of brotherly love, received a commendation appropriate for a church of overcomers.
2. The church of Philadelphia along with the Church of Smyrna were the ONLY 2 of the seven that did not receive condemnation from the Lord.
 - a) In spite of their struggles, the Believers @ Philadelphia were faithful and obedient to the Lord.
 - b) They provide an outstanding model of a loyal Church.

I. THE RECIPIENTS OF THE LETTER

1. The Church of Philadelphia - brotherly love!!
2. The noun or adjective for of the word is used 7 times in the in the New Testament.
 - a) **Romans 12:10**
 - b) **1 Thessalonians 4:9**
 - c) **Hebrews 13:1**
 - d) **1 Peter 1:22; 3:8**
 - e) **2 Peter 1:7**
3. The Church of Philadelphia was the youngest of the 7 CITIES.
 - a) Founded sometime after 189 BC either by King Eumenes of Pergamum or his brother, Atalus II, who succeeded him as king.
 - b) The city derived its name from Attalus II's nickname Philadelphus ("brother lover"), which came from his loyalty to his brother Eumenes.

II. THE DISCRIPTION OF THE LORD

1. Vs 7
2. Jesus gives a partial description of Himself from the portrait he painted in 1:12-18.
3. Vs 7 again
 - a) "**the holy one**"
 - b) "**the true one**"
 - c) "**who has the key of David**"
4. Jesus positions himself as the preeminent, holy God, qualified to call the believers of Philadelphia to life of faith in Him.

5. 1 Peter 1:15

6. The reference to His being true is a reference to His genuineness or reality.

7. Vs 7

a) "who has the key of David"

8. Cf. Isaiah 22:22

a) Eliakim foreshadowed Christ the king of truth and holiness as well as opportunity for ministry and service.

III. THE COMMENDATION FROM THE LORD

A. THEY HAD A GREAT OPPORTUNITY

1. Vs 7-8

2. So what exactly is an Open Door?

a) 1 Corinthians 16:8-9

1) "a wide door" - a great opportunity

b) 2 Corinthians 2:12

c) Colossians 4:3

1) An open door or opportunity to preach the Gospel

3. Philadelphia was the key, the gateway, to the central part of Asia Minor.

4. **Very Important:** So when Jesus spoke to the Church about an open door they were immediately reminded of the history of the city and the opportunity to influence thousands of people.

B. THEY HAVE LITTLE STRENGTH

1. Vs 8

a) "I know that you have but little power"

2. 2 Corinthians 12:9

C. COMMENDATION #3 - THEY HELD TIGHT TO THE WORD

1. Vs 8

a) "yet you have kept my Word"

2. In the midst of a Pagan World, the Church @ Philadelphia believed the Word of God and remained faithful to it.

D. COMMENDATION #4 - THEY HAVE NOT DENIED THE LORD

1. Vs 8

a) *"and have not denied my name"*

2. The Church @ Philadelphia remained strong in their belief of the deity of Christ and who He was.

3. These 4 commendations are characteristics of growing congregations.

- a) They have an Open Door - great opportunity
- b) They have "Little Strength"
- c) They "Hold Tight to God's Word"
- d) They do not Deny Christ

IV. THE PROMISE OF CHRIST TO THE CHURCH

A. THEIR ENEMIES WILL BE DEFEATED

1. Vs 9

a) *"I will make those of the Synagogue of Satan"*

2. These were unbelieving Jews

a) 2:9

1) They rejected Jesus as Messiah

3. *Romans 2:28-29*

4. Bowing down @ someone's feet depicts total submission.

a) The Philadelphian churches enemies would be completely humbled and defeated.

1) *Isaiah 45:14*

2) *Isaiah 49:23*

3) *Isaiah 60:14*

B. KEPT FROM THE TRIBULATION

1. Vs 10

a) *"I will keep you from (Gk. ek - means "out from") the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world"*

2. This promise has prophetic significance.
3. This is not regional tribulation but tribulation on "***the whole world***".
4. This is a time of testing that the Church would be kept from.
 - a) That time of testing is found in **Revelation 4-19**.
 - b) **1 Corinthians 15:51-54**
 - c) **1 Thessalonians 4:13-17**
5. There are three views of the tribulation period.
 - a) **The Pre-Tribulation View** - the Church will be Raptured out before the Tribulation.
 - b) **The Mid-Tribulation View** - the Church will be Raptured out in the middle of the Tribulation.
 - c) **The Post-Tribulation View** - the Church will go through the Tribulation and then be Raptured out.
6. The Church is not mentioned from Chapter 4 on. Not one time.
 - a) But in Chapters 1-3 it is mentioned 19 times.

C. JESUS PROMISED TO COME SOON

1. Vs 11
2. I believe you can lose your crowns.
 - a) **The Imperishable Crown**
 - 1) *1 Corinthians 9:24-25*
 - b) **The Crown of Rejoicing**
 - 1) *1 Thessalonians 2:19*
 - c) **The Crown of Life**
 - 1) *Revelation 2:10*
 - d) **The Crown of Righteousness**
 - 1) *2 Timothy 4:8*
 - e) **The Crown of Glory**
 - 1) *1 Peter 5:4-5*

CONCLUSION:

1. Jesus commended this church for:
 - a) Being excited about Open Door Opportunities
 - b) Understanding we accomplish the Mission in His Strength
 - c) We must hold tight to God's Word @ all levels.
 - d) And for not denying Christ