



## Philadelphia – Revelation 3:7-13      *The Open Door Church*

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### Revelation 3:7-13    ESV

<sup>7</sup> “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: ‘The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.

<sup>8</sup> “‘I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. <sup>9</sup> Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you. <sup>10</sup> Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. <sup>11</sup> I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. <sup>12</sup> The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. <sup>13</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’

## Introduction and Background

- hear this story on John Chrysostom who would not back down from keeping the Word of God (which is the gospel)

*“One of the most gifted speakers in church history was John Chrysostom—the name comes from a Greek word meaning “golden tongued.” John was sent from Antioch to what was then Constantinople where he preached fearlessly in the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire. His denunciation of the lavish extravagance of the rich and ruling class and his condemnation of excess infuriated many, and led to his execution. When he was told of his fate, Chrysostom responded: “What can I fear? Will it be death? But you know that Christ is my life, and that I shall gain by death. Will it be exile? But the earth and all its fullness is the Lord’s. Will it be the loss of wealth? But we brought nothing into the world, and can carry nothing out. Thus all the terrors of the world are contemptible in my eyes, and I smile at all its good things. Poverty I do not fear. Riches I do not sigh for. Death I do not shrink from.”*

- this famous old time preacher only feared the Lord and what an example he is to each one of us  
- he did not fear poverty or what men could do to him, he only feared the One who could destroy both body and soul in hell

- Chrysostom knew the joy of being a \_\_\_\_\_ in the temple of God and knew that he belonged to the Lord

- in the North American church \_\_\_\_\_, wealth, prestige and influence is often praised

- the Philadelphian church is described as having “little power” which would mean that they were small and likely had little or no financial resources, which is the \_\_\_\_\_ of what the North American church culture praises

- even though a church is \_\_\_\_\_ it does not mean that it is not faithful

- the Philadelphia church, although it is small, is commended by the Lord Jesus Christ for being \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord Jesus

- this church \_\_\_\_\_ difficulty from the Roman culture and from the Jews

- but in spite of the all the difficulty they faced they \_\_\_\_\_ the Word of God

- Lord, make each one of us like this church in Jesus name we pray, Amen!

- the city of Philadelphia was a smaller \_\_\_\_\_ than the other cities that we have looked at (Ephesus, Smyrna and Pergamum)

- an important \_\_\_\_\_ road to the great city of Rome passed through Philadelphia

- this road brought \_\_\_\_\_ and trade to the city

- the city was in a valley and was perfect for growing grapes, so as you can imagine, this city was known for its \_\_\_\_\_

- the false god that was worshipped in this city was Dionysus who was the \_\_\_\_\_ of wine

- there was also a \_\_\_\_\_ Synagogue in Philadelphia which we hear about in this section

- we will break down this address by Jesus Christ to the Philadelphia church as follows:

**1) (3:7) Christ Described**

**2) (3:8-10) Christ Commends**

**3) (3:11) Christ Commands**

**4) (3:12-13) Christ Promises**

**1) (3:7) Christ Described**

**(3:7) "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:**

a) The angel

- when you read Revelation chapters 2-3 you will see that each \_\_\_\_\_ has an angel
- there are \_\_\_\_\_ churches and there are 7 angels that are connected to the churches
- the angel is the representative for that church and \_\_\_\_\_ the message for that church from Jesus and the Holy Spirit

**The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.**

- Jesus is described in three ways to show His \_\_\_\_\_ !

b) Jesus is holy

- Jesus is called "the \_\_\_\_\_ one", which means that Jesus is pure and without sin
- because Jesus is holy, He \_\_\_\_\_ look upon sin with any sort of pleasure
- Jesus is different than us \_\_\_\_\_
- humanity is \_\_\_\_\_ on sinning; as the old expression goes, "to err is human"
- but Jesus never erred or sinned against God, He was \_\_\_\_\_ in all His ways

- the phrase "holy one" is used in the \_\_\_\_\_ Testament to describe God

**Isaiah 40:25** To whom then will you \_\_\_\_\_ me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One.

- Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ God and He is fully human and He had to be \_\_\_\_\_ man and God to be that perfect and sinless sacrifice to deal with our sin
- if Jesus was not the "holy one" He could not be the one to take upon Himself the punishment of sin for the world and be a \_\_\_\_\_ of propitiation

- we sometimes \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus is holy and we highlight other characteristics of Jesus to the detriment of His \_\_\_\_\_

- for instance some people only see Jesus as love and yes, Jesus Christ loved people
- praise the Lord, He showed His love by going to the cross to deal with our sin once for all
- but Jesus Christ is also \_\_\_\_\_ and hates sin

2) Jesus is true

- Jesus is called "the \_\_\_\_\_ one"
- \_\_\_\_\_ in John 14, claims that He is the truth

**John 14:6** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the \_\_\_\_\_, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

- Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_, if you do not know Jesus; you do not \_\_\_\_\_ the truth
- if you have not embraced the Jesus found in the \_\_\_\_\_ then you have not embraced the "true one"
- if you embrace a \_\_\_\_\_ that is only human, did not take the punishment for sin and did not rise from the \_\_\_\_\_ then you have embraced "a false Jesus"

#### **d) Jesus has the key of David**

- to have the \_\_\_\_\_ of David in the context of the Bible means that Jesus is from the line of David

##### i) Authority

- the person with the keys has \_\_\_\_\_
- for instance, my parents owned a restaurant, and keys were given out
- the keys were given to management and people who were in authority
- keys were never given out to dishwashers and cooks, only the management who had the authority to open the restaurant and close it
- this is the same idea here, Jesus Christ has authority because He has the "key of David"

##### ii) Messiah

- He also has authority as the Messiah as indicated by his \_\_\_\_\_ from the line of David
- in the gospel of Matthew in chapter 1 we see how Jesus relates to David as he is in the direct family line of \_\_\_\_\_

**Matthew 1:17** So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

- at the end of Revelation we see that Jesus is the root and the descendent of David

**Revelation 22:16** "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

- to summarize how Jesus is described here, He is the sovereign Lord who is without sin and true, as Revelation 6 says:

**Revelation 6:10** They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

#### **2) (3:8-10) Christ Commends**

**(3:8)** "I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut.

a) He “knows” their works

- Jesus says that He “\_\_\_\_\_” their works

- we see that Jesus Christ is the all-\_\_\_\_\_ Lord and God

- Jesus is able to know \_\_\_\_\_ things about all of these churches because He truly is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the church

- Jesus is the savior who \_\_\_\_\_ among the 7 golden lampstands which are the 7 churches

- therefore, Jesus knows what is \_\_\_\_\_ on in the churches

- in Revelation 2:23 Jesus declares that He searches hearts and \_\_\_\_\_, therefore, He knows

- there is not one thought, action or attitude that we can \_\_\_\_\_ from the Lord

- no one else might see your \_\_\_\_\_ sins, or your secret works to the glory of God, but the \_\_\_\_\_ sees them

- the Lord has put an \_\_\_\_\_ door before these Christians who are in Philadelphia

- this can be taken two ways

i) the open door is the work of ministry that they are to carry out

ii) the open door is the entry into the kingdom of Heaven

- \_\_\_\_\_ are possible of course but since Jesus has just talked about their works at the start of the verse and these works refer to the works of ministry, it is likely, that Jesus is referring to the open door of ministry and proclaiming the \_\_\_\_\_

- Paul spoke about a door that the Lord had opened so that he could do the \_\_\_\_\_ of ministry in the area where the churches of Revelation were located

**1 Corinthians 16:8-9** But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, <sup>9</sup> for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

- the Lord has \_\_\_\_\_ many doors for the Canadian church to proclaim His grace and mercy but often we as Christians are more prone to close that door due to \_\_\_\_\_ instead of barging through the open doorway

- years ago we had a friend who we called Eddie Haskell, he reminded us of the actor on “Leave it to Beaver”

- Eddie Haskell was a very in your face character and was always \_\_\_\_\_ into the Cleavers house

- our friend looked like Eddie, sounded like Eddie and barged into the house like Eddie did!

- we need to be just as \_\_\_\_\_ to share our faith as Eddie Haskell was eager to be around the Cleavers

I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

b) He “knows” they have little power

- Jesus declares that they have “little \_\_\_\_\_”, this means two things:

1) they are \_\_\_\_\_ in number – this was not a big church

2) they had \_\_\_\_\_ finances – this church did not have a lot of well to do people to support it

- but do you notice how this does not matter to Jesus

- Jesus is more concerned with them keeping the Word of God and not denying the name of the Lord

c) They kept the word

- this same word “\_\_\_\_\_” is used with the church at Thyatira

**Revelation 2:26** The one who conquers and who \_\_\_\_\_ my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations,

- if you are keeping the Word of God this means you are keeping the \_\_\_\_\_ of grace

- this means that you are not \_\_\_\_\_ in anything that you could ever do to be saved

- you recognize that you have \_\_\_\_\_ a holy God with your sin and that you need grace from God to be restored back to God

- you acknowledge the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ because He has accomplished everything that is needed to restore you back to God

- you say to \_\_\_\_\_ as Psalm 119 declares:

**Psalm 119:94** I am yours; save me, for I have sought your precepts.

d) They did not \_\_\_\_\_ the name of Jesus

- these Christians, in spite of the Jews and the Roman culture being \_\_\_\_\_ them, did not deny Jesus Christ

- they were not ashamed of Jesus and they were not \_\_\_\_\_ of His good news to save sinners

**(3:9)** Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie-- behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you.

- now Jesus deals with the \_\_\_\_\_

- remember in the history of the early church, Christians and Jews were often seen as the same type of religion by the \_\_\_\_\_ culture

- but the \_\_\_\_\_ did not want the Christians lumped together with them, this led to the Jews \_\_\_\_\_ Christians

- as you look at the book of Acts much of the persecution that came to the \_\_\_\_\_ church was from Jews

- Saul, who was a religious Jew, later known as the apostle Paul, persecuted Christians before he knew the Lord Jesus in Acts 7-9



- Jews in the city of Philadelphia were persecuting Christians
- this is why Jesus declares that they are not \_\_\_\_\_ Jews, they belong to the synagogue of Satan
- the Jews who hate Jesus are not really Jews; they belong to Satan
- Jesus makes this same declaration in the gospel of John

**John 8:44** You are of your father the \_\_\_\_\_, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the \_\_\_\_\_ of lies.

- we see in the text, that Jesus will make the Jews, who think they belong to God, come and bow down before the \_\_\_\_\_ Christians

- Jesus will show the Jews that He \_\_\_\_\_ the Philadelphian church

- isn't it amazing to know that Christ Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ this church!

- how did He love this church? By \_\_\_\_\_ for them!

**John 15:13** \_\_\_\_\_ love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

**(3:10)** Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.

- Jesus commends this \_\_\_\_\_ but he also gives a big promise to this church as well

e) They "kept my word"

- the Christians have \_\_\_\_\_ the Word of Christ

- this means that they have kept the \_\_\_\_\_

- they have acknowledged the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus and His grace

- the Philadelphia church did not know the song "Grace Greater than Our Sin" but they would have confessed that the \_\_\_\_\_ of God through Christ is \_\_\_\_\_ than their sin

- they would have \_\_\_\_\_, experienced and gloried in the work of Christ among sinful people just like is \_\_\_\_\_ in Revelation 5

**Revelation 5:9** And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you \_\_\_\_\_ people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,

f) They had patient endurance

- but the Philadelphian church also persevered in \_\_\_\_\_

- they had persecution from the \_\_\_\_\_ and the Roman culture but they continued with Christ

- Christ kept them by His \_\_\_\_\_ and they bound themselves like crazy glue to Jesus Christ

g) Resulting Promise

- but Christ promises these Christians would be \_\_\_\_\_ from the hour of trial

- this hour of \_\_\_\_\_ is God's judgment at those who reject Jesus Christ
- we hear about this hour of trial and God's judgments in Revelation 6-\_\_\_\_\_ with the seals, trumpets and the bowls

### 3) (3:11) Christ Commands

**(3:11) I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.**

#### a) Warning and a promise

- Jesus gives us a promise and a warning, He is \_\_\_\_\_ soon!
- the book of Revelation speaks a lot about the coming of \_\_\_\_\_
- Revelation 22:7** "And behold, I am coming \_\_\_\_\_. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."
- Revelation 22:12** "Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to \_\_\_\_\_ each one for what he has done."
- Revelation 22:20** He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

- Jesus tells us 4 times in Revelation that He is \_\_\_\_\_ soon
- Jesus has not yet returned, it has been 2000 years and some might \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus is never going to come again
- but the timing of the Lord is a lot different than our \_\_\_\_\_
- many people have sought to \_\_\_\_\_, down to the exact date, when Jesus Christ is coming and they have all failed of course

#### b) Hold fast

- but Jesus wants us to focus on what is next in this verse
- Jesus wants us to \_\_\_\_\_ fast to Him
- this exactly what Jesus said to the church at Thyatira
- Revelation 2:25** Only hold \_\_\_\_\_ what you have until I come.
- I have said several times, we are \_\_\_\_\_ by grace and \_\_\_\_\_ by grace, but we are commanded to grasp and hold onto Jesus Christ
- we are called to \_\_\_\_\_ with the Lord until Jesus comes again
- Jesus teaches us that salvation is by work, His work upon the Cross, but we are \_\_\_\_\_ to hold fast to Christ
- Jesus Christ gives us a new \_\_\_\_\_ and mind so that we can \_\_\_\_\_ and serve Jesus Christ
- we are called to persevere so that no one will take our \_\_\_\_\_
- this crown refers to the joyful \_\_\_\_\_ of heaven, which is eternity with God forever!



#### 4) (3:12-13) Christ Promises

(3:12) The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.

- Jesus promises two amazing blessings to these believers who persevere with the Lord

a) They will be a pillars

- this means that they will be permanent \_\_\_\_\_ in the Temple

- they will be \_\_\_\_\_ citizens in heaven

- the Lord promises and delivers because He is \_\_\_\_\_

- the people of God will experience the hope of \_\_\_\_\_

b) New Names

- these believers, who are victorious, will have \_\_\_\_\_ names written on them

i) the name of God

ii) the name of the city of God – the New Jerusalem

iii) the new name

- all these names symbolize that the believers in Philadelphia \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord and will experience the hope of the New Jerusalem that is talked about in Revelation 21-22

(3:13) He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

- this address to the church at Philadelphia ends with a call for people to \_\_\_\_\_

- the Word of God demands our attention and \_\_\_\_\_

- are you willing to \_\_\_\_\_ to what the Spirit says to the churches in the Word of God?

#### Application

##### 1) See the Beauty of Jesus Christ

- in the late 90s, the book of Revelation was a very popular book

- it was \_\_\_\_\_ because many people were consumed with the end times

- many end times \_\_\_\_\_ have been made but of course none of have come about

- I remember someone declaring to me that Jesus would for sure come in the year 2000 but that was 22 years ago

- he should have been more excited and passionate about the Lord Jesus who is declared in this great book!

- he was more \_\_\_\_\_ about the how and when things were going to happen and not about \_\_\_\_\_ Christ who will bring these things about

- do you see the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ in this passage?

- in Revelation 3:7, \_\_\_\_\_ is the Holy One, the True One and the one who holds the \_\_\_\_\_ of David
- Jesus is holy, true and the Messiah
- in Revelation 3:8, Jesus knows this congregation and He says this two times
- Jesus sets before them an open \_\_\_\_\_
- in Revelation 3:9, Jesus will make the Jews bow before this church
- Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ this church
- in Revelation 3:10, Jesus will keep the Christians from the wrath of God to come
- in Revelation 3:11, Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ soon
- in Revelation 3:12, Jesus will give the promise of the hope of heaven to His people
- if you are a Christian, let us \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord Jesus Christ
- just \_\_\_\_\_ at His grace, His work and His promises!

- today if you do not \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus, you need to know that the Lord is holy and the message of Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_
- you need to turn from your sin and \_\_\_\_\_ in the person and work of Christ
- you can have these promises of deliverance from the \_\_\_\_\_ of God for sin and the hope of being with Christ forever, but only through Christ

**2) The Lord has Opened a Door for Ministry, WHAT WILL YOU DO?**

- the Lord calls the church to \_\_\_\_\_ disciples and \_\_\_\_\_ the works of ministry
- the Philadelphia church did not \_\_\_\_\_ the name of Christ before those around them
- they were committed to \_\_\_\_\_ the works of Christ
- what are the works of the church? Jesus gives us our \_\_\_\_\_!

**Matthew 28:19-20** Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,<sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- let us join together in \_\_\_\_\_ disciples and \_\_\_\_\_ people about Christ
- let us not be a church that \_\_\_\_\_ the name of Christ before our community

## **Revelation 3:12 NLT**

**All who are victorious will become pillars in the Temple of my God, and they will never have to leave it. And I will write on them the name of my God, and they will be citizens in the city of my God—the new Jerusalem that comes down from heaven from my God. And I will also write on them my new name.**

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Coming UP...

- Nov 13    Revelation 3:14-22 – Laodicea
- Remembrance Day acknowledged
  - National Day of Prayer for Kids

- Nov 20    Review and Summary of the Seven Churches
- Fellowship Day of Prayer

# Philadelphia: The Open Door Church      Revelation 3:7-13

## Introduction and Background

### 1) (3:7) Christ Described

- a) The angel
- b) Jesus is holy
- c) Jesus is true
- d) Jesus has the key of David
  - i) Authority
  - ii) Messiah

### 2) (3:8-10) Christ Commends

- a) He “knows” their works
- b) He “knows” they have little power
- c) They kept the Word
- d) They did not deny the name of Jesus
- e) They “kept my word”
- f) They had patient endurance
- g) Resulting promise

### 3) (3:11) Christ Commands

- a) Warning and promise
- b) Hold fast

### 4) (3:12-13) Christ Promises

- a) They will be pillars
- b) New Names

## Application

- 1) See the Beauty of Jesus Christ
- 2) The Lord has Opened a Door for Ministry, WHAT WILL YOU DO?