

The Church at Philadelphia

Revelation 3:7-13

I. Introduction:

A. Context

1. John was exiled on the Isle of Patmos for being a Christian & preaching the Gospel.
2. Jesus appeared to John & gave him the information recorded in the Book of Revelation
3. Jesus divided the book into three sections (**Rev. 1:19**).
 - a. – The things which John had seen
Found in chapter 1 is the vision John had while speaking with Jesus.
 - b. – The things which are
Jesus' messages to each of the 7 churches of Asia Minor in the 1st century is recorded in chapters 2 & 3.
 - c. – The things which shall be hereafter
The prophetic portion of the Book of Revelation is found in chapters 4 – 22.

B. Messages to the churches

1. We're studying the 2nd section of Book of Revelation, Jesus' letters to the 7 churches.
2. We've considered 5 of the 7 churches & are resuming w/ the 6th, church at Philadelphia

II. The church at Philadelphia (Revelation 3:7)

A. Introduction

- The letter is addressed to the angel (messenger) of the church who would be the pastor, the under shepherd, of the church that belongs to Jesus.
- Jesus introduced Himself to this church the following way:
 1. – He who is holy
 - a. Holy describes the very character of God. Seraphim circling God's throne cry "holy, holy, holy" all the time. (**Isaiah 6**) Jesus introduced Himself as God.
 - b. The word *hagios* means to be separate. God's holiness sets Him apart from man.
 2. – He who is true
 - a. The word used here is *alethinos*, meaning that which is genuine as opposed to that which is fake. Jesus is not just some symbol of truth, He is truth!
 - b. Jesus is the only one through whom we can find reality.
 - c. It is by faith in Jesus that we have forgiveness of sin and true life.
 3. – He who has the key of David
 - a. Being the keeper of the key means authority.
 - b. Kingdom: Jesus holds the key to the kingdom controlling who enters & does not.
 - c. Jesus is the only one who can forgive sin & give eternal life. (**John 14:6**)

III. An open door (Revelation 3:8)

A. Open door of missions

1. The open door Jesus set before this church was one of a mission opportunity for this city was located on the region bordering Lydia, Mysia and Phrygia.
2. Merchant caravans & Caesar's armies moved along the road passing through this city.
3. Jesus opened a great opportunity for this church to spread the Gospel near and far.
4. Application: Just as they had an open door, so we have one also today for evangelism.

B. Commendation

1. Jesus commended this church for their faithfulness to His word and His name.
2. They had “**little strength.**” They were not a large church with vast resources.
3. But they were faithful in what mattered.
 - a. – They obeyed God’s word. b. – They shared God’s word.
 - c. – They would not deny the name of Jesus.
 - d. -Application: Those are elements of success in Christian life that Jesus recognizes!

IV. Promise of deliverance (Revelation 3:9-10)

A. Two Promises of deliverance

1. – Deliverance from Judaizers
 - a. Satan has always attacked the church through legalism opposing the Gospel of grace.
 - b. The Judaizers added works to grace teaching salvation was by some religious works.
 - c. Jesus said one day the legalists, those who opposed & attacked the church, would bow before Jesus. The enemy will one day see that Jesus loves His church.
 - d. Application: The promise is still true. Day is coming when every knee will bow before Jesus & every tongue will confess that He is Lord. (**Philippians 2:10**)
2. – Deliverance from the hour of trial
 - a. A local contemporary trial
Jesus promised to be w/ this church as they suffered trials & persecution in their obedience to Him. Jesus promised to deliver them from these trials.
 - b. Global trial
 - i. Jesus said He would deliver them from the hour of trial that would come upon the whole world pointing to the tribulation period.
 - ii. Jesus did not say He would deliver them through, but deliver them from it.
 - iii. This is scriptural evidence the church won’t go through the tribulation but will be raptured before it begins. Thus rapture of the church can take place at any time.

V. Jesus’ promise to return (Revelation 3:11)

A. Soon and suddenly

1. Throughout the N.T. we find Jesus’ promise to return soon & quickly or suddenly.
2. Jesus promised to return one day and call His redeemed out of this world.
3. Dead in Christ will rise 1st, receiving their resurrection bodies, & meet Him in the air.
4. Then the alive will be changed in a moment, in twinkling of an eye, & meet our Lord in the air. The remaining will go into the tribulation where there will be judgment.

B. Do not forfeit their crown.

1. A crown is a reward to God’s saint for faithful service in this life.
2. This has nothing to do w/ losing one’s salvation, but w/ losing our rewards for missing the opportunity given to serve Him in this life.

VI. Promise to overcomers (Revelation 3:12-13)

A. Overcomer

1. Overcomers are all those who are saved by faith in Jesus.
2. Those who are saved by faith in Jesus are overcomers of this world. (**1 John 5:4-5**)

B. Promises to the overcomers

1. – A pillar in the temple of My God
2. – All the names
 - a. The name of God, the name of the new city, and a new name from Jesus.
 - b. All these names upon the redeemed indicate that we belong to our God.