

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible
Current Book: Revelation – verse by verse

Scripture(s) for Today: Revelation 3:7-13 – Philadelphia Church Period; Let there be Light!

Today's Message:

"A Great Awakening"



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we continued with the fifth letter to Sardis. It was 1 of only 2 with no commendation. Jesus plainly said that it is was a dead church! They had a name that they were alive but were dead. Today, we come to Philadelphia – a **FAITHFUL** church! We will be blessed to see what happens when God is pleased with His church who is obeying Him. After **1000** years of darkness, it was time for God to unleash the greatest all books – the holy Bible – in the language of **COMMON** people. Jesus Christ will give His church an open door to the world – truly life's greatest honor and privilege! Amen.

Seven Letters to Seven Churches

Historically – 7 real churches | **Devotionally** – all churches | **Doctrinally** – 7 periods of Church History

LEARNING TOGETHER

1. The Text Rev 3:7-13

#1. The Church – Philadelphia – "Brotherly Love" – Church History (1500AD-1900AD)

SUMMARY: Emphasizes the incredible revival of human history as world missions take the completed English Bible to the ends of the earth.

HISTORY: As we look back on church history, what happened during this time?

1. **English & the Printing Press** – **COMMON** people could obtain a copy of the Bible!
 - ✓ *The English language reaches its glorious highpoint – Elizabethan English! Amen.*
 - ✓ *The world is evangelized with the English AV (KJV), Martin Luther's German Bible.*
2. **The Reformation** – an exodus from RCC led by Martin Luther and the "Reformers"
 - ✓ *Though often hostile to Anabaptists (as well as Catholics), they did bring Rome to a point of internal conflict and discredit (so RCC goes underground)...*
3. **Atheism & Intellectualism** – Satan counters God's glory with the wisdom of **MEN**!
 - ✓ *Human wisdom is exalted; psychoanalysis/psychotherapy seek to replace God's wisdom; led by Spinoza, Hegel, Kant, Freud, **Huxley**, **Marx** and **Darwin**.*
4. **Cults & False Churches** – Satan counters God's glory with many **FALSE** religions!
 - ✓ *Satan's ministers: Seventh Day Adventism, Campbellism (Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ, Christian Churches), Russellism (JWs), Christian Science, the Mormons...*

NOTE The power of God's Word was unstoppable, and Satan had to change his attack!

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Making disciples and caring for souls!

#2. The Commendation – He that is holy and true called this church FAITHFUL!

1. It was the church of **the open door** ... **“the key of David” “an open door”**
 - ✓ *Jesus Christ gave them a privilege and responsibility! Isa 22:22; 1 Co 16:9; Col 4:3*
 - ✓ *This church was faithful to go to the world, preach the gospel and make disciples!*
 - ✓ *This time in history was blessed with the greatest achievements in everything!*
2. It was a church that had **a little strength** ... **“thou hast a little strength”**
 - ✓ *The church was not large, but it was a powerful, Spirit-filled church! 2 Cor 12:9-10*
 - ✓ *The size of the church does not determine its impact on the world for God’s glory!*
3. It was a church that had **kept God’s word** ... **“kept my word”** (not said of any other!)
 - ✓ *They loved the words of their Lord and held them fast! Jn 14:23; 17:6; 2 Tim 4:7*
 - ✓ *God has sought through the Bible and history to find people who would do this!*
4. It was a church that had **not denied Christ’s name** ... **“hast not denied my name”**
 - ✓ *They spoke boldly in the name of Jesus Christ! Acts 4:18; 5:40-41; 15:26; Php 2:10*
 - ✓ *At a time when the deity of Jesus Christ was being marred, this church stood firm!*

NOTE Jesus Christ said He loved these believers! Their faithfulness allowed God to bring many to their feet to hear His words to be saved! He promised to keep them from “the hour of temptation” – the wrath to come. Count the “I”s and “my”s in letter!

#3. The Condemnation – there was NONE – the word of God was key to victory!

1. It was a **faithful** church ... **“Because thou hast kept the word of my patience”**
 - ✓ *There were 7 key English translations leading up to the AV 1611 (KJV). Ps 12:6,7*
 - ❖ *Wycliffe(1382) Tyndale(1525) Coverdale(1535) Matthew(1537) Great(1539) Geneva(1560) Bishops(1568)*
 - ✓ *There were 3 known attempts to prohibit the AV 1611 (KJV)...*
 - ❖ *Pope Sixtus V, King Philip of Spain and the Spanish Armada (May 29, 1588) – Spain tries to take England!*
 - ❖ *The failed assassination attempt of King James I, a.k.a. “The Gunpowder Plot” (October 26, 1605)!*
 - ❖ *The Roman Catholic Douay Rheims Bible (1610) – translated from Jerome’s corrupt Latin Vulgate!*

NOTE An honest review of history will reveal God’s miracle! 95% of copies are of Antioch! Satan hated God’s blessed Book; he raised men to hate it also and to try to stop it.

2. The Lesson (How can we learn from our passage today?)

1. *Our Lord praises, helps and trusts those of His church that **KEEP** His words.*
 - *The Philadelphian Christians were given a great opportunity because of obedience!*

❖ **Question:** “Are you wholly following God?” Nu 8:16; 32:12; Josh 14:8-14; 1Tim 4:15

2. *It is possible to be a Philadelphian believer in **OUR** time in church history.*
 - *He that is holy, He that is true, He that holds the key of David, is our Lord also!!*

❖ **Question:** “What did they have that you do not?” Heb 13:8; Gen 18:14; Jer 32:17

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