

Lesson 8

The Letter to the Church of Philadelphia: Persevere, Hold Fast

Revelation 3:7-13

Invite the Holy Spirit to teach and speak to you through the Word of God as you meditate on Revelation 3:7-13 every day this week.

As you read through the verses presented this week, look for a special verse to make your memory verse for the week. We will share our verses at the end of our discussion time.

1. What was a new or interesting thought from last week's lesson?

“I know your deeds, Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name.”

Revelation 3:8

The church of Philadelphia is thought to represent worldwide Christendom during the era from 1750-1930. During this time the church experienced major revival and many missionary endeavors were launched.

2. Of the seven letters of Jesus to the churches, only two letters do not contain words of condemnation: the letter to the church of Smyrna and the letter to the church of Philadelphia. These two churches share one other similarity. Read Revelation 2:8-11 and 3:7-13 and try to identify the other thing they share in common. Do you see the “silver lining” to having opposition in your life?
3. Isaiah 22:20-23 is background to Revelation 3:7-13. This is a prophecy that Shebna, reigning king in Jerusalem at the time, will be replaced by Eliakim. Why is it important who holds the key?
4. Who holds all authority in heaven and earth according to Matthew 28:19?

5. Make a list of the many promises in Revelation 3:8-12 for those who overcome and discuss what these mean to you.
6. What “doors” does Jesus open? See Matthew 11:27, Acts 12:7-10 and Colossians 4:3.
7. What will Jesus not open without our permission according to Revelation 3:20?
8. Isaiah 60 is often thought of as a chapter about the Millennium, the one thousand year reign of the Lord Jesus on earth. What does Isaiah 60:14 promise?
9. What wonderful promises does Jesus give in John 14:21-23?
10. What does Jesus teach in Matthew 10:33 about denying Him?

Revelation 3:10 is a key verse to how the rest of Revelation is interpreted. Some believe that this verse promises that believers will not have to go through the difficult times of Revelation 6-19 (the Great Tribulation). They believe this verse teaches that they will be removed physically from the earth (the Rapture) and not go through the Great Tribulation. Others see this verse promising that Jesus will spiritually protect those who persevere as they go through the Tribulation, giving them the grace not to compromise or deny Him.

We will discuss the Great Tribulation and the Rapture in detail later. These concepts are also defined in the glossary at the back of this study guide.

11. The same phrase “will keep them from” is used by Jesus in John 17:15. What does Jesus ask of His heavenly Father in this verse?

12. What are we promised in I Thessalonians 5:9?

13. What is the condition that must be met for the promise of Revelation 3:10?

14. What are we commanded to do in Ephesians 6:13-16?

15. Scan the plagues that Moses brought upon the land of Egypt in Exodus 4-12. What happened to the Israelites during these plagues?

16. What happened to the three Hebrew youths in Daniel 3?

17. What happened to Daniel in Daniel 6?

18. What does Jesus promise His followers in Matthew 10:16-22 and John 15:18-16:4?

19. Who should we fear according to Matthew 10:28?

20. What is the warning in Revelation 3:11 and what is the remedy? See also II John 8.

Crowns are specific rewards promised to certain believers. There are two Greek words that are both translated *crown*. *Stephanos* is the word in Revelation 2:10 and it refers to the crown of a victor who won a Greek athletic contest. The other word is *diadem*; it is the crown of a ruler.

21. Read about some of these crowns in the following verses and discuss what they will be rewarded for: II Timothy 4:8, James 1:12 and I Peter 5:4.

22. Think about a pillar in a building. Describe the purpose of pillars. How are some of the leaders of the early church described in Galatians 2:9?

23. What are all believers a part of according to Ephesians 2:21-22?

24. What names will be written on those who persevere according to Revelation 3:12. What does this mean to you?

25. Will it be worth it for believers to persevere through trials according to Revelation 3:7-13?

26. Are the promises of Jesus in this passage true? Can He be believed? See Revelation 3:7.

27. Turn to the chart Section IV. Complete the portion that relates to the Church of Philadelphia.

28. Share the memory verse that you found through this week's study and why you chose it.

29. From your meditation this week on Revelation 3:7-13, what do you want to remember?

Lecture Notes: