

The Lion and The Lamb

Revelation 3:7-13

- Chapter three of Revelation is one of, if not the most descriptive portraits of the spiritual condition found in the church today. So far we've seen a church that was loveless, suffering, compromising, corrupt, and dead spiritually, even though it appeared to be alive. I believe in these seven churches we see three distinct categories that the body of Christ finds itself identifying with.
- **1. Sleeping state** - that represents a nominal or inactive faith, you still believe there's a God, you even go to church, but your numb to the things of God. There is no excitement about the possibility of sharing your faith, your not alert to the spiritual opportunities God is presenting to you on the job and in your family, and making yourself completely uncomfortable in order to grow is in your mind out of the question, so sacrificing to get involved in people's lives doesn't move you at all.
- **2. Lukewarm state** - this is the self-satisfied and indifferent crowd, as they stopped caring a long time ago, as their sole goal is comfort and convenience, in fact you will strive not to be inconvenienced, so stretching oneself in order to grow closer to God doesn't even register in your thinking. Miss bible study or church, no big deal I read, praying with others, I talk with God every day, and yet you think I'm okay, but Jesus will call them poor, blind and wretched for they have deceived themselves.
- **3. Faithful state** – these are those who keep God's Word near and dear to their hearts, that still believe that The Word of God is preeminent, as their mindset is, I get up so that I can be used for His glory. So you endure the weariness, the trials, the temptation to get spiritually lazy, trusting that one day you will hear your Lord say "well done good and faithful servant, you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things, enter into the joy of your Lord".

V7-13

- **V7** the church at Philadelphia, it means "**brotherly love**", but that's not what you think of when visiting it, in fact it was the first stadium to have a jail cell at the bottom of it because its fans got so violent toward each other and the opposing fans of other teams. Still in **1Thess 4:9, Jn 13:34, Rom 5:5**, by The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit we are told to love one another.

- Philadelphia was built to be an outreach post for the Greek culture to the barbarian tribes that dwelt outside of Phrygia, they wanted to spread the Greek language and way of life throughout the region and beyond, so they built this city to help with that.
- It gained its name from its founder Attalus the second, who's nickname was Philadelphos, it was a prosperous city with one of the greatest highways in the world being called the gateway from one continent to another. Also because of its beautiful buildings and array of temples to its false gods, it acquired another nickname "little Athens" as it introduces its false gods to the other cultures.
- Jesus in introducing Himself says He is Holy and He is True, these don't describe tendencies within Jesus, but His very being. For by being Holy meant He is also God, because only God alone can be Holy. Being true means not false, therefore not fake but genuine, real, as He is the real God who came and died for us on a real cross.
- Which is why He holds the keys, for only He can open and shut doors, a quotation from **Is 22:22**, as it expresses Jesus power and authority to admit and to exclude. This explains why man is compelled to try and exclude Him from their thinking because to include Him means we must admit that He alone decides not us.
- **V8** Just as He had said to all the other churches Jesus says to them that He knows all about the church of Philadelphia. In knowing about them Jesus does something for them > He has set an open door, an open door usually speaks of evangelistic opportunities > **Acts 14:27, 1Cor 16:9, 2 Cor 2:12**, and **Col 4:3**. Jesus had opened a door for an evangelistic opportunity, one in which no one can shut but Him.
- Because they have kept His Word, and not denied His name, they still have a little strength, this doesn't imply weakness as we think of being weak, for in order to be truly used by God one must become weak for God to make us strong. The Apostle Paul was an example of this > **2 Cor 12:7-10**- God's strength was made evident in his weaknesses, as we can be too strong, too sure of ourselves for God to really use us, The Church of Philadelphia had the poverty of spirit to rely on God's strength.
- **V9-10** this is what Jesus will do for them, those false Jewish people who were persecuting the church he identifies their true motive and its source > to destroy the church, which comes from Satan. Notice it is The Lord Who will make things right not us, vindication should never be our motive.

- Also Jesus promises them protection from the hour of trial that is coming on the world, this I believe is the woes of the great tribulation which precedes Jesus earthly kingdom, this is a promise from Jesus to keep these Christians from that hour of trial. Those who dwell on the earth refers not to believers but to unbelievers who are objects of God's wrath. So does this imply an escape from it or promise protection in it, each side believes this passage supports their position.
- **V11** regardless of your stand take note in what Jesus wants the church to do > hold fast what you have, translation: do not depart from the solid foundation that you have > **Jer 6:16**- hold onto the ancient paths, where the good way is, and walk in it. The crown here is one of reward, it's a crown of victory, Jesus is encouraging His saints to finish their course with victory, and play the second half just as strongly as they played the first half, and don't let up, as is the tendency of man.
- **V12** overcomers are told that they would be a pillar in the temple of My God > **1Jn 4:4**, and **1Jn 5:4-5** we are called who have put our trust in Jesus Christ overcomers. Which is why we will rule and reign with Jesus in the New Jerusalem, notice the overcomer has a place of permanence and stability with God, receiving marks of identification that show who we belong to, as both The Father's and The Son's name written upon us, and the name of the city of God the new Jerusalem.
- **V13** he who has an ear let him hear what The Spirit says to the churches, this word is for everyone who has an ear to hear, that will cause them to have a heart to receive. This is how much God loves mankind, everyone has the opportunity to respond to His truth, and based on his response will determine whether they receive more truth