

## The Seven Churches

### Part 6.

#### Philadelphia

“The Faithful Church”

#### **Revelation 3**

7 “To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.

8 I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. 9 I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. 10 Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.

11 I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. 12 The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name. 13 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

**Vs. 7** “To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

- Name means *brotherly love*)
- It was the youngest of the seven cities
- The original purpose behind this key city was to make it a center for spreading Greek language, culture and manners throughout the Asian provinces.”

was a *prosperous* city

was also known for her beautiful buildings

Philadelphia had so many gods and so many temples that sometimes men called it "Little Athens.

**Vs. 7b** Jesus describes Himself to the church at Philadelphia.

“These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.”

Jesus reminds the church in Philadelphia that He **is holy** and **true**. These does not describe "tendencies", but His very being. They also show that Jesus is Yahweh, because He alone is **holy**.

There are two ancient Greek words that translate into **true**.

One means "**true** and not *false*."

The other means "**true** and not *fake*."

The ancient Greek word used here for **true** (*alethinos*) is the second, which means "real" or "genuine."

Jesus is **true one; the real & genuine one**, He is the Christ, the Son of the Living God...

who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.”

- Jesus likens his authority to the key of David...
- David was the King of Israel...
- David's Throne was in Jerusalem where he as the King decided who was allowed into the Kingdom...
- David the King determined when and to whom the doors of the Kingdom would open and close...
- Jesus shows He is also the keeper of the keys and doors.
- Jesus expresses His power and authority, especially to admit and exclude.

### **Vs. 8**

I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

- The church in Philadelphia has an **open door** placed before them by the Lord.
- Often, an **open door** speaks of ministry opportunity.

### **1Corinthians 16:9**

Because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me.

### **Colossians 4:3**

And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ

we may proclaim the mystery of Christ...

- Jesus tells them to **see** that they have this **open door**.
- Sometimes God sets an open door of ministry opportunity in front of us, but we don't see it.

A man who had been touched by Jesus came to Charles Spurgeon and asked how he could win others to Jesus.

Spurgeon asked him,

*"What are you? What do you do?"*

*The man said, "I'm an engine driver on a train."*

*"Then," Spurgeon said, "Is the man who shovels coal on your train a Christian?"*

*"I don't know," said the man.*

*Spurgeon said, "Go back and find out and start with him."*

**Vs. 8b "I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name."**

- I think it's important to note that though they only had little strength they had enough strength...
- It may have only been a little strength but it was real strength...
- It's better to have little strength and depend upon God than have much strength and not need God...
- The Church in Philadelphia had strength not in their own ability but a strength that came from the Lord...
- We know this is true because the Lord says you have kept my word and not denied my name.

\* It is better to have little strength and depend upon the Lord than a lot of strength in your own ability and not need God.

The Apostle Paul, when weak in his own ability found strength in God:

### **2 Corinthians 12**

Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. **8** Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. **9** But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. **10** That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

**Vs. 9** I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you.

This is Jesus's promise of Favor and Protection to his Faithful Church

- There are those who lay claim to God's favor and acceptance with their lips but their hearts are far from him...
- The Lord says to the Church in Philadelphia you will not have to argue any longer I will prove my love and acceptance of you...
- The Lord says I will prove my love and acceptance...

**Vs. 10** Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.

This is the umbrella effect...

The Lord says because you keep my command and endure patiently, I will keep you from the hour of trial...

There will be trials that come and all the inhabitants will be effected by it...

But in the midst of the trials they are going to witness something miraculous... They will not be touched by it...

**Vs. 11** I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.

**The Lord instructs the Church to hold on to those things he has mentioned:**

- Ministry/Evangelistic opportunity (*I have set before you an open door*)
- Reliance on God (*You have a little strength*)
- Faithfulness to Jesus (*have kept My word, and have not denied My name*)

Closing:

**Vs. 12,13**

12 The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it.

- The one who is victorious will be included and apart of what God is doing...

I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my

I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name.

- When we tell others about Jesus and what he has done for us we lay claim to him. When he writes his name on us and the name of his city, the difference is now he is publicly laying claim to us.
- It's one thing for us to publicly claim him, it's something very special when he publicly claims us...

**13** Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.