

7 LETTERS – FAITHFUL FEW

SMALL GROUP NOTES 10/11/19

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SCRIPTURE

Revelation 3:7-13

SCRIPTURE CONTEXT

The next letter Jesus writes is to the church in Philadelphia, and like Smyrna, he only has positive things to say. Philadelphia was known as the gateway to the east as it sat in a very strategic location between east and west. Likewise, the church here was a gateway church, living out the great commission and seeing disciples made globally. In a worldly sense, they were small and unimpressive, with little influence, but Jesus delighted over them. They have stood firm in the face of external pressure and patiently endured. What a comfort that God gets the hardships we face. He encourages them by showing them that he is sovereign and holding them firmly with un-closeable access to Him. Faithfulness in this life is not easy, but the message of this letter is that it is worth it. Christ is faithful and true, and there is a day coming when every knee will bow before Him and be judged faithful or faithless. The only hope for being found faithful is in Jesus.

QUESTION FOR STUDY AND DISCUSSION

1. How would you describe a church that does not have a heart for the lost? Can that church be a healthy church?
2. The church at Philadelphia had "limited strength" or influence. What limitations to gospel influence do you feel you have that Christ can both use and overcome?
3. What prospects for mission and evangelism has the Lord opened for you? How can you be faithful to take advantage of those opportunities?
4. The Lord promises future vindication for His church, which has suffered for its faith. How does this vision give you strength to remain faithful? What is the reward in verse 12 for those who persevere and how is it better than any earthly treasure?