

A. SERMON NOTES

Philadelphia Church: Keep on Mission

Revelation 3:7-13 (ESV)

“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: ‘The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.

“ ‘I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you. Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’

B. GROUP DISCUSSION

1) Read Revelation 3:7-13. What do you see? What do you question? How do you feel?

2) What are we tempted to do, or think when we are suffering?

3) Jesus asks us to "hyper-remain" in Him during suffering. He gives us symbols to ignite faithful courage. Talk about the meaning of each one please:

a) Jesus will open a door. What has your experience been in discovering a treasure that you could not have except for having endured suffering?

b) Jesus holds the keys. How does it help or harm to know that Jesus is ALWAYS in control? What would this have meant to the church in Philadelphia? What does this say about submission to authorities?

What is a Cosmic Plagiarist? What is a Cosmic False Incriminator?

c) Jesus will make us into a pillar. In the context of the church in Philadelphia what did this mean? And how does that meaning project into our day? What does it mean to be secure in our faith and destiny?

4. Prayer and Praise. Lift one another up in encouragement. What role does the covenant community play in "hyper-remaining?"