

HANDOUT Revelation 3: 7-13: "The Letter to the Church at Philadelphia" "City of Brotherly Love"

The American Church is Much like the 3rd Soil in the Parable of the Sower and 4 Soils. **Matt 13:7** "Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. **Vs 22 Explains Seed falling among the thorns refers to one who Hears the Word, But the Worries of Life & Deceitfulness of Wealth Chokes it Out.**

- **Entanglement with the World is the Most Dangerous test Christians face because they do not know that they're relationship with Christ is under attack!**
- This Church was Faithful to Christ and to the Word. His Message is Almost Entirely of Praise!

The city of Philadelphia is known today as Alasehir It's located in Lydia about 28 miles Southeast of Sardis. Philadelphia means "Brotherly Love". The same word is found 6 times in the New Testament. Dionysus was the chief object of pagan worship. A nominal Christian testimony existed until about the end of WWI

*As I study the Church of Philadelphia, I'm Encouraged about what God Provides for Any Church to have a Dynamic Ministry! Today, We Will Look Closely at What It Takes to Have a Dynamic Church. **Rev 3:7-13***

Verse 7: "Christ is Described as the One who is Holy and True" Christ Alone is Truth...Anything that is Not consistent with Christ is Error and False Doctrine! In Christ, "Right Doctrine & Right Living Go Together!"

- Christ holds the key of David and what He opens no one can shut, and what He shuts no one can open... Isaiah 22:17 speaking of Eliakim, "I will place on his shoulder the key to the house of David. What he opens, no one can shut, and what he shut's, no one can open."
- Christ is a "type" of Eliakim, Eliakim had the keys to all the treasures of the King, he alone opened and closed the door. Christ has the Keys to Truth & Holiness
- Even in the midst of heathendom Christ assures the church of Philadelphia that He has the Power to "Open and Close" According to His Will. He can not be opposed. He governs every event on Earth.

Vs 8. How He will use this power: "I know your deeds. I have placed before you an open door that no man can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name."

- Paul On his second missionary journey used this analogy about himself. He tried to go into the province of Asia to Preach the Gospel But was Forbidden by the Holy Spirit; It Was A Shut Door!
- **But when he came to Troas he had a vision of a man from Macedonia, and he learned that the Lord had Opened a Door for Him into Europe. Paul's Commitment to Enter that Open Door has Changed the History of the Whole Western world, Affecting All of Civilization Since that Time. .**
- 1st Cor. 16:9, he says of Ephesus, the capital of Asia, "A great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me".

The words, "I know that you have little strength," in the NIV is not exactly what the Greek text says. The ASV is more Correct in its Translation here There is No word in Greek for "I know". What it literally says is, **"...Because you have "A Little Power" and have Kept My Word and have Not Denied My Name."**

- The text Actually says, "I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut because you have "A Little Power" & have kept my word and Not Denied My Name."

KEY TRUTH: An Open Door is Given when a Church Fulfills the Conditions that will Allow it to Move Through that Door once it has Been Opened! When We, In Faith, "Expect" God to Act...Then...God the Holy Spirit Moves and We Sense that God Will Do Something!

- **KEY: It is NOT Your Ability... Your Knowledge or Your Perspiration...It is Your Faith that Moves God's Heart...And Causes Him to Open the Door for Ministry!**
- When You Accepted Christ into Your Life...God Empowered You to Do Good Works...Deeds of Help, Mercy, Kindness, Witness, Love, Comfort, Counsel, ETC.
- God's Word says, "which God has Prepared Beforehand for Us to Walk in them."
- When you are confronted with a need it may appear rather insignificant at first.

Each one of you, who know Christ, has been given spiritual gifts and has been commissioned by Christ to use those gifts to bless people and meet their needs. Imagine, What Vast Potential Resides in you! If you will Exercise the Spiritual Gifts that We been Given to Accomplish Ministry!

Remember that the Presence of the Spirit is Promised to each Church/Person Without any Condition. When We Receive Christ the Spirit Comes to Live Within Our Hearts and Resides There...But the Power of the Spirit is Given Only to Churches that Learn to Keep His Word and Do Not Deny His Name!

Two things are Central in the Ministry of Every Church. First, there is His Word...God Always Plants His Word at the Heart of His Church. A Church Not in the Word...Will Be Ineffective in Ministry!

Secondly, We Must Preach it, Teach it, Study it, and Truly Know it. *It is Not just for the Leadership of the Church...But Everybody in the Church is to Know God's Word...We Must Soak Ourselves in the Word!*

- Vs 8 Christ said, "I Know Your Deeds/Works!" He saw their "Faithfulness" even in the Midst of a Heathen Environment. Vs 9-10 "A Commendation of Promise and Victory!"
- VS 9: Christ says, Those who are of the "synagogue of "Satan" I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you.
- VS 10: Christ's Promise, "Since you have "endured patiently" I will keep you from the trials that are to come!" They Kept Gods Word and were Patient! They Followed Gods Word (Obedience) and waited Patiently (Trust) These are the Keys to Victory in Jesus!

VS 10b "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."**The Greek Preposition used here (ek) is best understood as "Out Of" not just from.** Therefore this reads that they will be "kept Out of" the Hour of Trial! *This supports those who Accept God's Grace, Trust and Obey, will be kept "out of" the hour of the Great Tribulation! {RAPTURED}*

- Application: We are to Keep Our Eyes on Jesus...On Eternity and Off the Affairs and Desires of this Temporary World that Seek to Entangle Us!

VS 11: Promise of a Crown to those who hold on to what they have. Simply... *"Hold on to what you have [God's Word] so that no one will take your crown."* **We Must Not Allow** a Desire for Status, Prestige, Fame, a Beautiful Home and the things the World Lusts for, to Become Central in Our Thinking.

- What it is Speaking of is Your Opportunity for Service in the Eternal Ages. *That is the Reward which is Offered, the Opportunity for Even Greater Service.* **Walvoord says,** "The expression 'Quickly' is to be understood as something which is Sudden and Unexpected, Necessarily Immediate."
- This was Not a Crown of Royalty...This Was a Crown of Victory. Jesus encourages The Saints of All Time to finish their course with Victory,

Verse 12 3-Fold Promise that they will be identified with God! **1.**He will Write on them the Name of God. **2.** He will Write on them the Name of the City of God. **3.** He will Write on them His New Name {Belonging to Christ}. Branded by Christ... We Can Belong to No Other!

If You want God to Move in Your Life... To Have God Work Through Your Life to Draw People to Jesus Christ...Expect That God Will Do It! True Faith is...Not I Hope...Rather...I EXPECT GOD WILL DO IT!

- When You Expect God to Move...Your Faith Will Open Doors that You Could Never Imagine.

"LIFE" POINT: YOUR FAITH MOVES GOD INTO ACTION!