

Revelation 3: 7-13 HANDOUT "The Letter to the Church at Philadelphia"

READ REVELATION 3: 7-13

- Vs 7, "Christ is Described as the One who is Holy and True" John 14:6 "Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
- **KEY:** Only Christ is Truth...Anything that is Not consistent with Christ is Error and False Doctrine! "Right Doctrine & Right Living Always Go Together!"
- Christ "Stands Alone" Midst a World that is False and Perverted...And Those of Us who Stand for Christ will Very Often Also Stand Alone!

Christ says, He holds the key of David and what He opens No One Can Shut, and what He Shuts No One Can Open...**READ ISAIAH 22:17** Christ is a "type" of Eliakim. Eliakim had the keys to all the treasures of the King and when he opened the door it was open and when he closed the door it was shut!

- Christ has the Keys to Truth and 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 Sovereign Will.*
- **God is Sovereign...He Can Not be Opposed.** He Governs Every Event On Earth. He will open some doors; he will close other doors...No Human Power can Contravene what God Determines.

READ VS 8 He tells the Church How He will Use this Power to Open and Shut. To a church like the church at Philadelphia the Lord says *He Will Open Doors of Ministry and Service, and No One Can Shut Them.*

- The Apostle Paul On his 2nd 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.
- Paul tried to go into Bithynia, on the southern shore of the Black Sea, but was not allowed of the Lord -- Another 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,*

The words in NIV, "I know that you have little strength," is not exactly what the Greek text says. The American Standard Version is More Correct 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."

- What the text actually says is, "I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut because you have a little power and have kept my word and not denied my name."
- **Point:** *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! Discovering the POWER of God the Holy Spirit.*
- *It is Spiritual Power the Lord is talking about. It is NOT So Much Strength as it is Power...Power Obtained by FAITH! It Is Only When We "EXPECT" GOD to ACT...FAITH...That God the Holy Spirit Moves and We Experience His Moving Through Our Situation!*

KEY: *It is NOT Our Ability...It Is NOT Our Knowledge or Our Perspiration...It is Our 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, Love, Comfort, etc.*

- Lance HAVNER said: "It is not a matter of great strength, not great ability *But Great Dependability.* Samson had Great Ability but Poor Dependability. *A Little Strength Faithfully Used, means More than Much Strength Flashily and Fitfully Used."*

"*You have a Little Power.*" Stresses the Fact that Most, If Not All, Churches Hardly Realize the Potential They Have for Ministry. Each of us, who Know Christ, have been given Spiritual Gifts and Commissioned by Christ to Use those Gifts to Bless People and Meet their Needs. ***But the Power of the Spirit is Given Only to Churches that Learn to Keep His Word and to Not Deny His Name!***

Two things are Central in the Ministry of Every Church. First, 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!*

READ VS 9-10 Give Us "A Commendation of Promise and Victory!" Gills Exposition on verse 9 says, "*Because of the Church's Faithfulness, Unbelieving Jews Will Come to Christ!*"

VS 10: Christ says, They Kept Gods Word and were Patient! They Followed Gods Word (Obedience) and waited Patiently (Trust) *These are the Keys to Victory in Jesus!*

- **Observation:** The Greek Preposition (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 is support that those who accept God's Grace, Trust and Obey, The Church will be kept "Out Of" the hour of the Great Tribulation!*
- **APPLICATION:** Keep Our Eyes on Jesus...On Eternity and Off the Affairs of this Temporary World that Continually Seeks to Entangle Us!

READ VS 11-13: "An Invitation and Promised Reward.

- VS 11: Promise of a Crown to those who hold on to what they have...His Word, **KEY:** As Hostility Increases and the World Casts Aside Much of the Teachings of Christianity...*We Must be Careful that We do Not Give Up and Go Along with Worldly Attitudes and Worldly Pursuits.*
- Jesus says, "Hold On to What You Have," Because there is Danger that Someone May Take Your Crown. *(Not a reference to the loss of salvation).* 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.*

VS-11 Makes Clear What Jesus Wants the Church of Philadelphia and for Us to do...*Behold, I am Coming Quickly! **Hold Fast what You have, that No One May Take Your Crown.***

- Walvoord says, "The expression 'quickly' is to be understood as something which is sudden and unexpected, **Not Necessarily Immediate.**"

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.) I have Set Before You an Open Door (**Evangelistic opportunity**). You have a Little Strength (**Reliance on God**). Have Kept My Word and have Not Denied My name (**Faithfulness to Jesus**).

That No one May Take Your Crown: If They//We Fail to Hold Fast, Our Crown of Victory Might be Given (Not Stolen) to Another. Havner: "Never Forget that the Man Most Likely to Steal Your Crown is Yourself!"

READ VS 12:To the One Who Holds Fast is Given a 3-Fold Promise: 1. He will Write on them and Us the Name of God. 2. He will Write on them and US the Name of the City of God. 3. He will Write on them and US His New Name {**Belonging to Christ**}. **Branded by Christ... We Can Belong to No Other!**

Q: IN WHAT AM I PUTTING MY FAITH? WHERE DO I PLACE MY TRUST?

Psalm 20:7 says, "*Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.*"

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 KNOW GOD WILL DO IT!

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

POINT: YOUR FAITH MOVES GOD INTO ACTION!