

Revelation 3:7 Philadelphia

12/6/15

Sunday Morning

Rev.1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated *it* by His angel to His bond-servant John,

V.2 who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, *even* to all that he saw.

V.3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

V.4 John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,

V.5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood—

V.6 and He has made us *to be* a kingdom, priests to His God and Father—to Him *be* the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

V.7 BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.

V.8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

V.10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like *the sound* of a trumpet,

V.11 saying, "Write in a book what you see, and send *it* to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

V.12 Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands;

V.13 and in the middle of the lampstands *I saw* one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash.

V.14 His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire.

V.15 His feet *were* like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice *was* like the sound of many waters.

V.16 In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.

V.17 When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last,

V.18 and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

V.19 "Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things.

Rev.3:7 (NP)

Rev.3:7 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this:

V.8 'I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

V.9 'Behold, I will cause those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and make them know that I have loved you.

V.10 'Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

V.11 'I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown.

V.12 'He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; 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 out of heaven from My God, and My new name.

V.13 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

V.7 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this:

- 1) "to the angel of the church in Philadelphia"
 - a) Approx. **28 miles** south-east of Sardis, in Lydia
 - i) About 105 miles from Smyrna It was founded after 189 BC – not as old as the other cities we have looked at
 - b) Its name was given to it in honor of **Attalus II Philadelphus, king of Pergamum** (159-138 b.c.).because of his loyalty to his elder brother, **Eumenes II, king of Lydia**.
 - c) The name "Philadelphus" is similar to Greek word Philadelphia – which means "brotherly love"
 - d) We have a city named "brotherly love" (Philadelphia) also
 - i) Someone is murdered there every 24 hours & 10 minutes in "city of brotherly love" (Philadelphia)
 - e) Another name of the city was **Decapolis**, because it was considered as one of the ten cities of the plain
 - f) It has had several names thru the years
 - i) In addition to all of these names it sometimes bore the title of "Little Athens" because of the magnificence of the temples and other public buildings which adorned it.
 - ii) A third name which it bore during the 1st century. AD was Neo-kaisaria;
 - (1) For a time stamped coins Neo-Caesarea – "New Caesar"

- (2) Probably in honor of Tiberius who rebuilt the city after an earthquake in 17 AD
- g) Its name now is Alasehir, "City of God" or reddish city (from red dirt)
 - h) Although the city still remains there are no survivors from the original city
 - i) Twice, in 1306 and 1324, it was besieged by the Seljuk Turks, but it retained its independence until after 1390, when it was captured.
 - i) The Seljuk Turks, who were Muslim, took all the Christians into the amphitheater killed every one of them
 - j) In 1403 Tamerlane (**Muslim, Mongol**) captured it, killed every person in the city and built about it a wall of the corpses of his victims.
 - k) The city is located on rich, sandy soil
 - i) That made it favorable to growing grapes for wine
 - ii) The abundance of wine had something to do with Bacchus (Dionysos) being the chief deity
 - l) But because of earthquake activity due to volcanoes, and the shifting soil, the city was destroyed & rebuilt several times
 - m) Today the town is an unimportant place of fifteen to twenty thousand people.
 - n) Philadelphia was distinguished from the other cities by several characteristics: first, it was the missionary city
 - i) Its mission was to Hellenize the world
 - ii) The Greeks saw everyone who wasn't Greek as a barbarian
 - iii) So their job was to Hellenize (**turn everyone into Greeks**) all the barbarians –
 - (1) This meant to change their culture, language, literature, manners, way of life into the Greek way
 - iv) By the 1st century they were speaking Greek instead of Lydian
 - v) It was in the perfect location to Hellenize the Asia Minor since the corner of 3 countries: **Phrygia, Mysia, Lydia**. All bordered Philadelphia
 - o) Just as it was a mission city for the Greek culture – Time wise this church represents the mission church of the last days,
 - i) That would be the time frame we live in
 - ii) But it doesn't mean that all Churches of our day fall into this category
 - p) The Church has been sending missionaries out during this Church age – hopefully will continue until Christ returns
 - q) Located on a main thoroughfare into the Decapolis it had some commercial importance,

V.7 x "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: *He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this:*

2) "He who is holy, who is true"

a) This takes us back to the description of Christ in **1:13**

Rev.1:13 and in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash.

b) We see this explained in **Isa.22**

i) The tunic which is to be worn only by the One who is Holy & True

ii) It is taken from all others – **none** were Holy & True

iii) We see this enacted in **Isa.22**

Isa.22:15 Thus says the Lord GOD of hosts, "Come, go to this steward, To Shebna (official in charge of Hezekiah's court – used to his own advantage) **who is in charge of the royal**

household, (looked to Egypt to save them)

16 'What right do you have here, And whom do you have here, That you have hewn a tomb for yourself here, You who hew a tomb on the height, You who carve a resting place for yourself in the rock? (thought his future was secure)

17 'Behold, the LORD is about to hurl you headlong, O man. And He is about to grasp you firmly

18 *And* roll you tightly like a ball, To be cast into a vast country; **There you will die** And there your splendid chariots will be, You shame of your master's house.'

19 "I will depose you from your office, And I will pull you down from your station.

20 "Then it will come about in that day, That I will summon My servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah,

21 And I will clothe him with your tunic And tie your sash securely about him. I will entrust him with your authority, And he will become a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah.)

22 **"Then I will set the key of the house of David on his shoulder, When he opens no one will shut, When he shuts no one will open.**

c) Only Christ is qualified to wear that tunic

d) He is Holy! He is True!

e) He became a man – but He remained holy & true always

f) We tend to bring the person of Christ down to a level unbecoming Him

i) He is the Holy One – these verses speak of the holiness of Christ

ii) He was holy in His birth

Lk.1:34

Lk.1:34 Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

35 The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.

iii) He was holy in His life on earth

Jn.6:67 So Jesus said to the twelve, "You do not want to go away also, do you?"

68 Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.

69 "We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God."

iv) Even the demons recognize His holiness

Mark 1:23 Just then there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit; and he cried out,

24 saying, "What business do we have with each other, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!"

v) He was holy in His death

Acts 2:27 BECAUSE YOU WILL NOT ABANDON MY SOUL TO HADES, NOR ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY.

vi) He remains holy thru eternity

Rev.15:3 And they *sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations!

4 "Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy; For ALL THE NATIONS WILL COME AND WORSHIP BEFORE YOU, FOR YOUR RIGHTEOUS ACTS HAVE BEEN REVEALED."

g) He is **True** in that He is **real & genuine** – He is also true in that He is **completeness** & He is **perfection**

i) There is nothing else after Him

(1) There is no new enlightenment – no further revelation after Him – no deeper knowledge than the knowledge of Him

ii) 'There is nothing coming after Him – He is it!

Jn14:6 Jesus *said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

- h) Pilate had no concept of truth – even though Truth stood right in front of him

Jn.18:37 Therefore Pilate said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say *correctly* that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

38 Pilate *said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews and *said to them, "I find no guilt in Him.

- i) He is truth & we know Him
- i) Don't let the world scare you – it is going to continue to stray farther from Truth
 - ii) The world is destined to become more lawless as time goes on.

2 Thes.2:7 For the mystery of **lawlessness** is already at work; only he who now restrains *will do so* until he is taken out of the way.

8 Then that **lawless one** will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming;

9 *that is*, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders,

10 and with all the **deception** of wickedness for those who perish, **because** they **did not receive the love of the truth** so as to be saved.

V.7 x "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this:

3) "who has the key of David"

a) It speaks of access in 2 fold way

- i) This key is access to **God Himself**
- ii) It is also access to **all that God has**
- iii) He not only has the key of David – He is our Door

Jn.10:7 So Jesus said to them again, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.

8 "All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them.

9 "I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be **saved**, and will go in and out and find pasture.

V.8 (NP)

V.8 *I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name.*

- 1) "I know your deeds"
 - a) Good deeds
 - b) There is a not single word of condemnation for them – no rebuke at all
 - c) Only this Church & Smyrna are w/out rebuke
 - d) One thing unique to this Church – They don't appear to have a misconception about who they are
 - i) Even Smyrna thought they were poor but they were rich
 - ii) Why would they not have a misconception? It will become clear
- 2) "Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut"
 - a) Literally – I have **given** (as a gift) you an open door
 - i) The same word is used in **Lk.12**

Lk.12:51 "Do you suppose that I came to grant peace on earth? I tell you, no, but rather division;
 - b) "I have put before you an open door..."
 - i) A door is used many times in Scripture
 - ii) An opportunity to serve, witness

1 Cor.16:9 for a wide door for effective *service* has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.
 - iii) Even this small church has been able to reach around the world to share the Gospel b/c of internet technology
 - iv) We have our own missionaries going out from this body
 - v) Secondly – Christ has the key – is the Door to a close relationship w/ the Father
 - (1) We have an opportunity to have fellowship w/ God as few others have had

Jn.10:7 x So Jesus said to them again, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.

8 "All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them.

9 "I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and **find pasture.**

10 "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have *it* abundantly.
 - vi) No other people have had the chance we have had to know God's Word the way we can know it
 - (1) 'This is why they don't have a misconception about who they are – the Word straightens all that out
 - (2) It is by the Word that we have wisdom

1 Cor.1:19(NLT) As the Scriptures say, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and discard the intelligence of the intelligent."

20 So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world's brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish.

2:13(NLT) When we tell you these things, we do not use words that come from human wisdom. Instead, we speak words given to us by the Spirit, using the Spirit's words to explain spiritual truths.

14 But people who aren't spiritual can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means.

15 Those who are spiritual can evaluate all things, but they themselves cannot be evaluated by others.

16 For, "Who can know the LORD's thoughts? Who knows enough to teach him?" But we understand these things, for we have the mind of Christ.

- (3) It is very unlikely that your grandparents had the chance to know the Bible they way you have the chance
- (4) Technology & accumulated knowledge have made all this possible
- (5) It is knowledge of God & obedience to it that empowers life
- (6) Compare **Col.3** with **Eph.5**

Col.3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

17 Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

- (7) Being filled w/ the Spirit & filled w/ the Word of God are like hand in glove
- (8) You don't have one w/out the other

Eph.5:18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,

19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;

20 always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;

21 and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

3) "because you have a little power"

- a) This is a commendation to them
 - b) He says they have power – not a lot but some – a little
 - c) Do you know why we have a little power? b/c of His Word
- 4) “and have kept My word and have not denied My name”
- a) How can a church measure their success spiritually?
 - i) Can’t do it by number of converts – Muslims would win that one
 - ii) Can’t do it by ornate buildings – Romanism would win that one
 - iii) How about memorizing Scripture – some of the most ill-natured people know Bible verses – notice I didn’t say they know Bible – I said they know Bible verses – big difference
 - iv) How about knowing His Word & keeping His Word (1)
 - v) & not denying His name
 - Josh.1:7** "Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go.
 - 8 "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall **meditate** on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.
 - 9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."
 - vi) Impossible to live right w/out meditating on God’s Word
 - Mt.7:24** "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock.
 - 25 "And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and *yet* it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock.
 - 26 "Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.
 - 27 "The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall."
 - Mt.28:20** teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
 - LK.11:27** While Jesus was saying these things, one of the women in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him,

"Blessed is the womb that bore You and the breasts at which You nursed."

28 But He said, "**On the contrary**, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it."

James 1:22 But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror;

24 for *once* he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was.

25 But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the *law* of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

V.9 'Behold, I will cause those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—*I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and make them know that I have loved you*.

1) "I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and make them know that I have loved you"

a) This is forced worship – not every building that has the word "church" on it is a church

b) Bow down before your feet, **Isa 43:4; 60:14**

V.10 'Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

V.11 'I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown.

V.12 'He who overcomes, *I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore*; 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 out of heaven from My God, and My new name.

1) "I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God"

a) Page 78 Barnehouse study

b) Page 164-165 Criswell

i) There is no tabernacle or temple in heaven

c) No more earthquakes to have to run from

2) "and he will not go out from it anymore"

a) Earthquakes – Many of the inhabitants remained outside the city living in huts and booths over the vale, and those who were foolhardy enough (as the sober-minded thought) to remain in the city, practised various devices to support and strengthen the walls and houses against the recurring shocks. The memory of this disaster lived long; the very name Katakekaumene was a perpetual warning; people lived

amid ever threatening danger, in dread always of a new disaster; and the habit of going out to the open country had probably not disappeared when the Seven Letters were written.

V.13 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'