

CONSIDER THE FIVE MOVEMENT STOPPERS IN OUR CONTEXT

IT MATTERS NOW

“The Open Door – The Letter to the Church in Philadelphia”

MY EXPERIENCE IN THE SPRINGS

Revelation 3:7-13

THE ANCIENT CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

Founded and built around 140BC by Attalus – his nickname was Philadelphus, which means, ‘brotherly love.’

It was considered one of the most strategic sites in the world.

The purpose behind building Philadelphia was for it to become a missionary city that spread Hellenism across the Eastern world.

It was said to have an open door of opportunity that could not be shut.

A CALL TO PERSEVERE

Perseverance means to patiently endure...to be constant...to not be skewed from your deliberate purpose.

What did the Christians living in Philadelphia have to persevere through?

What did they have to push through and overcome that tried to prevent them from walking through the open door God put in front of them?

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE OPEN DOOR

1. P _____

2. P _____

3. P _____

4 P _____

THE LEGACY OF PHILADELPHIA

The _____ is worth the _____.

FIVE MOVEMENT STOPPERS

1. P _____

2. P _____

3. P _____

4. P _____

5. P _____

****Turn to the back page of this handout for continued message outline.***

Message given by Brandon Grant, Lead Pastor of Rise City Church

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IT MATTERS NOW// The Letter to the Church of Philadelphia

The Open Door

Passage: Revelation 3:7-13

Date: Sunday 10/16/2016

Sermon Based Life Group Materials

FOR STARTERS

What dream job or career do you wish that you could have had in your life?

QUICK REVIEW

Have you ever missed an opportunity that you later regretted? Or something that you just wished you had invested in long ago but didn't? Life provides for all of us choices and experiences that we can enjoy if we chose. Likewise, following God can be an exciting adventure full of opportunities to take advantage of, or even sometimes miss. The city of Philadelphia was considered a strategic missionary city throughout its history, even before it became an outpost for the Christian Church. The church had tremendous potential to reach the people around them and be an example for God. This week's message challenged us to not allow "movement stoppers" to keep us from the mission of God. We cannot waste or miss an opportunity that God has given us to share His love.

STUDY & SHARE

1. Take a few minutes to read and study through Revelations 3:7-13.
 - a. What was Jesus' purpose of writing this letter to this church?
 - b. What did Jesus find commendable about this church? How was this church different from the church in Sardis discussed last week?
2. Revelation 3:8 Describes an open door that no one can shut.
 - a. What was this open door for them as a church?
 - b. What open doors has God provided you for sharing His love with others? What open doors have you missed over your life that you wish you could do over (this could be spiritually, financially or even relationally)?

- c. What were the reasons you missed those opportunities? What would you change, given another opportunity?

3. This week's message gave us 5 movement stoppers: Pleasure, problems, prosperity, people and polytheism.
 - a. Of the 5 movement stoppers, which one(s) do you think the larger church in America is struggling with and why?
 - b. Of the 5 movement stoppers, which one(s) do you think keeps you from joining the movement of God in your own life?
4. Revelation 3:12 describe a promise for those who are "victorious." What did this promise mean for them and how does it apply to us today?

GROUP CHALLENGE

Regarding open doors of opportunity – what are some opportunities for Rise City Church that we may want to consider currently, or for the future? Compile a short list and have your leaders email them to Rise leadership for consideration.

FOR PRAYER

Ask God to provide you and our church with opportunities to share the love of Jesus with our neighbors and around the world. Confess to God the movement stoppers in your own life and ask God to realign your life with His mission and purposes.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

What did you find most interesting about this week's message?

What didn't make sense that you would like more clarity about?