

The Church of the open Door

(Book of revelation 3:7-14)

Introduction:

- 1- The book of Revelation is considered to be one of the most difficult books of the Bible. While it has many features that are certainly problematic, it nevertheless has one of the simplest messages of Scripture.
- 2- Its central message simply teaches us that if we are faithful to Jesus we cannot be defeated, even by death (1:18; 2:10).
- 3- It is about a message for seven churches in the Roman province of Asia. The churches are being reviewed to determine both their strength and the amount of preparation needed for the upcoming battle. While this battle will in some ways be fought on the earth, there are heavenly perspectives to consider.
- 4- Even for the Church and this congregation today we can learn lessons.

Transition:

The lesson title today obviously takes us to **(chapter 3:7-14) ; The Church of Philadelphia in Asia minor.**

Discussion:

- I- **What is the history of Philadelphia?**
 - A- About twenty-five miles southeast of Sardis on a high plateau, some 800 feet above the surrounding countryside sat a small but important city known as Philadelphia. Philadelphia was the youngest of the seven cities to which Jesus sent letters—only about two hundred years old at the time.
 - 1- The city was destroyed by a great earthquake in 17 A.D. just like Sardis and 10 other cities in this area.
 - 2- . It was later rebuilt with the help of the Roman Emperor, Tiberius who waived their taxes for 5 years and contributed heavily to them as they were rebuilding
 - B- So it is that Jesus writes a letter to the Church in this small city.
(3:7: 3:8-14)

- 1- Jesus has nothing negative to say to the church in Philadelphia.
- 2- T his letter is flowing with positivity and praise.
- 3- Before complimenting the church, however, Jesus begins, as always, with his own credentials.

II- His credentials. (V7)

A- Jesus identifies himself with three key terms in this letter. He That Is **Holy, True**, and **Hath the Key of David**.

- 1- Jesus identifies himself as “the one who is holy” (vs. 7 NLT).The Old Testament is replete with references to the holiness of God. In fact, Isaiah 6:3 declares: “Holy, holy, holy is Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory “Jesus identifying himself as “**the one who is holy**” is a clear and direct **claim to deity**. Peter affirmed, “*We believe, and we know you are the Holy One of God*” (John 6:69). To be holy means to be completely flawless and faultless.
- 2- To say that Jesus is holy is to say that he is utterly sinless; his character is absolutely untarnished, unblemished and free from any moral defects. Jesus is the essence of purity. (I Peter 1:18-19, II Corinthians 5:19-21).

B- Secondly, Jesus describes himself as “the one who is... true” (vs. 7).

- 1- The word true means “the **original** as opposed to a copy” and “the authentic as opposed to an imitation.”
- 2- Christ says He is truth (John 14:6). The devil is the liar and the father of lies, not God (John 8:44). Jesus is **the true light, and true Bread, and true Vine**, and Truth itself. He is the original; everything else is a copy.
- 3- Jesus was assuring the believers in Philadelphia, and us by extension, that he is the real deal.

C- Finally, Jesus credits himself as “the one who has the key of David” (vs. 7).

- 1- Keys represent power or authority and it is Jesus who has all-authority: (Matthew 28:18, Ephesians 1:20-23, Colossians 3:17).

D- This is all about the Kingdom of Christ, Church, over which Jesus is King and has all authority. Those keys (authority), were used to

open the kingdom to all men on the day of Pentecost, as people were added to the kingdom / church (Acts 2:47). The kingdom / church is what you are translated into after being delivered from the power of darkness (Colossians 1:13).

III- **The Open Door (Revelation 3:8-10)**

A- The open door reference is used throughout other areas of the New Testament. It means a door of opportunities: (Acts 14:27, I Corinthians 16:5-9, II Corinthians 2:12 Colossians 4:3).

B- Jesus was about to open a door for them, giving them an opportunity to reach the community around them with the message of his saving grace, and no one could take that from them. No one could shut that door.

1- They had little strength (numbers, money, etc.), but kept the word and confessed Christ. See: (Matthew 7:24-27).

2- They were a church with a BIG HEART. The lesson here is that as they must remain faithful, even under the Domitian persecution, with an open door they would take advantage to serve and go to greater heights for Christ.

3- We are a congregation not large in numbers may but we have a God who opens doors! And when he opens a door, you can rest assured that he will give us the strength to walk through it. The economy may fail, nations may rise and fall, this building may crumble to dust, but the church that meets here will continue strong and powerful if we are faithful to walk through the doors Jesus opens before us.

IV- Finally a warning and a promise :(3:11-12).

A- First they must hold fast to what they have. Their purity of faithfulness. If they give up on this they would be robbed of their reward, eternal life.

B- There is a lesson here for us today: We must remain faithful if we are to receive the crown of life. We are to remain faithful in service unless we are removed as a congregation of Christ's people.

C- Finally the **PROMISE**. Jesus says that he 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 I will write on him My new name.” (12-13).

- 1- This shows the perfect security for those who overcome by faithful service.
- 2- There was no such glorious promise given except to the Church of the open door, Philadelphia. What comfort for us today knowing that we to have the same promise if we but overcome Satan and the darts that he hurls at us.

Conclusion

- 1- This is an invitation to surrender your heart and life to Jesus. Whether you've been a believer for some time or a short time, there are always parts of our lives that we haven't yet surrendered. Jesus beckons us to fall at his feet and acknowledge that he is the one who is holy and true, who has supreme authority and never-ending love. It doesn't require a lot of strength, just enough faith to walk through the door.
- 2- As a congregation of the Lords people are we really serving faithfully our Lord as we really should? He that hath ears let him hear.
- 3- Let's go to the father in prayer: