

The Message to Philadelphia

Revelation 3:7-13

August 28, 2022

I. Introduction

- A. As with Smyrna there is no call to repent – no rebuke
- B. This is by far the best church, although the smallest

II. The Church at Philadelphia (“love for the brethren”)

A. The city – v. 7a

- 1. 28 miles southeast of Sardis



- 2. It was famous for its agricultural products, but afflicted with earthquakes
- 3. Named after *Attalus Philadelphus* who built it
- 4. The word is found seven times in the New Testament and only here used of the city itself
- 5. There is still a Christian witness in this city

B. The Christ – v. 7b

- 1. “*He who is holy...*”
 - a. Only used in 2 and 3
 - b. See Revelation 4:8; 6:10; I Peter 1:15
- 2. “*He who is true...*” (power and control)
 - a. Intellect, judgment without error – John 14:6; 17:17
- 3. “*He who has the key of David...*”
 - a. Isaiah 22:22-25
- 4. The key to spiritual treasures

C. The commendation and promise – vs. 8-12

- 1. “*I know your deeds...*” He knows what we do and why we do it.
 - a. None here who have left their first love as at Ephesus
 - b. None here who hold the teachings of Balaam and the Nicolaitans-Pergamum
 - c. None here who tolerate the immorality and idolatry of Jezebel-Thyatira
 - d. None here who were dead – incomplete works – Sardis
 - e. None here who were lukewarm – Laodicea

2. “*Behold I have put before you an open door...*”

- a. A door of opportunity: Colossians 4:2; Acts 16:14; I Corinthians 16:9
- b. Why? The area? Time? No; the spiritual condition of the people. God opens doors for Philadelphians!

3. Because you:

- a. “*...have little power...*” (little, due to number – Ryrie)
- b. “*...have kept* (to preserve, watch, guard, hold to) *my word...*”
 - i. They guarded and kept the truth of God – II Timothy 1:13, 14
- c. “*...have not denied* (disowned, disclaim) *my name.*” They were loyal to the name of the Lord. II Timothy 1:8,9; I Thessalonians 1:8

4. I (Jesus) will:

- a. Humiliate your enemies – v. 9
 - i. Romans 14:11; Philippians 2:10, 11
- b. Deliver you from the hour of testing (i.e., Tribulation) – v. 10
- c. Come quickly (sudden and unexpected; not necessarily immediate) – v. 11a
- d. Honor believers – v. 12

D. Caution, don’t lose your crown – v. 11b

- 1. II John 8; I Corinthians 9:27-29
- 2. II Corinthians 5:10

E. Rewards – v. 12

F. Challenge – v. 13

III. Application

A. Prophetic

- 1. Philadelphia has been called the “missionary” church
- 2. It represents the great missionary era of the church from 1750-1925
 - a. William Carey, Hudson Taylor and David Livingstone

B. Personal

- 1. The need for personal examination.
 - a. Proverbs 4:23; I Corinthians 9:24-27; I Timothy 4:14
- 2. The need for personal evangelism.
 - a. Proverbs 11:30; II Corinthians 5:18-20