

SERIES: #WHAT DOES GOD THINK ABOUT OUR CHURCH?
THE SEVEN LETTERS OF REVELATION
PART 6: PHILADELPHIA: THE CALLED CHURCH
REVELATION 3: 7-13
WBC SERMON NOTES 17/11/2019

INTRODUCTION:

We have learned some important principles from the churches of Revelation:

- Ephesus – the Christian’s P.....
- Smyrna – the Christian’s P..... – don’t give up!
- Pergamum – the Christian’s P.....: danger of compromise
- Thyatira – the Christians P.....
- Sardis – the Christians P..... – the Holy Spirit

Today we look at Philadelphia – and the Christian’s P.....

We have seen a careless church, a Christ-centered church, a compromised church, a corrupted church, and a confused church.

Philadelphia was the C..... church!

Reading: Revelation 3:7-13

v8: *“See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut.”*

Open doors!

What is the “open door” Jesus is talking about?

- Acts 14:27 – a door of
- 1 Corinthians 16:9 – effective
- 2 Corinthians 2:12 – the preaching of the
- Colossians 4:3 – a prayer for an open door to
- ➔ An open door to

Philadelphia – the CALLED CHURCH with an open door

- Strategically placed
- A great assignment

Three things we need to know about the GIVER OF THE 'OPEN DOOR' (v7)

1. His A..... – the 'God-ness' of Christ

"these are the words of the one who is HOLY ..."

Peter, recognized who Christ was – John 6:69

Isaiah 6:1-4

2. His A.....

"these are the words of the one who is holy and TRUE ..."

3. His A.....

"...who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open."

Isaiah 22:15-25 (v22)

When does Jesus 'open doors'? Jesus noticed three things about THIS church.

Here were Christians who:

- R..... on God's power (v8)

"I know you have little strength"

Paul's spiritual secret – 2 Corinthians 12:9

Why were the heroes of the faith such great men and woman of God?

J Hudson Taylor: *"All of God's giants have been weak men who did great things for God because they on His being with them."*

1 Corinthians 1:26-29

John Newton's mother

- **R..... their spiritual bearing (v8)**

"... yet you have KEPT my word."

* They to the Word – sought it's truth

* They were to the Word

"I know your works"

– James 2:18 – *"I will show you my faith BY my works"*

Calvin: *"Faith alone saves, but faith that saves is not"*

* They the Word

- **R..... faithful witnesses (v8)**

"... and you have not denied my name"

When God "opens doors", does it mean there won't be obstacles?

The Philadelphia church had two obstacles to overcome:

- They lacked s.....

"God's commands are His"

- They faced S..... opposition – *"the synagogue of Satan"*

Ephesians 6:12

To this Church, Jesus gave 3 wonderful promises:

- He would take care of their..... (v9)

Philippians 2:9-10

- He would keep them from the (v10)
A variety of interpretations!

When we pass through the open door, sometimes the Lord:

-- "Keeps us" – trials & delusion (see 2 Thes. 2:9-12; Rev. 20:8)

-- "Keeps us" – trials and tribulations

Psalm 9:9-10

- He would honour them for their (v11)
The crown of life = the R..... of our salvation
= the R..... of our salvation

FOUR MORE PROMISES FROM V12:

- * God's workmanship in your salvation – the pillar
- * God's ownership – God's name written on the overcomer
- * The Christian's citizenship – in the New Jerusalem
- * An enduring relationship – Jesus new name, bought with His blood (1 Cor. 6:19-20; 1 Pet 1:18,19)

APPLICATION

1. **What do you see - or?**

"Unbelief sees, faith sees,
and the Lord holds the"

No one can the door as long as Jesus holds it

2. **Step out in**

Faith Promise