

Passage: Revelation 3:7-13

This letter and the letter to the church in Smyrna have a lot in common. These two church's are the only ones that Jesus has nothing negative to say. They are also the two that most likely went through the most persecution at this time. In both it is obvious that they were not accepted into the local Jewish synagogue because they are followers of Jesus. Jesus rebukes these Synagogues and calls them a synagogue of Satan. (Accuser or Adversary)

Who is the true Gatekeeper?

look at v.7

Only God is holy and true in the OT and Jesus is using it to describe himself. The church in Philadelphia could very well have been describing Jesus in this way and it is what Got them kicked out of the synagogue .

In **Isaiah 22**, a man named Shebna is mentioned. He is a palace administrator and is an unfaithful steward, probably corrupt. So there is a prophecy in Isaiah 22 that Shebna would be replaced with a man named Eliakim. God says that he will give Eliakim the key to the house of David. This is shorthand for key to the kingdom of God. When we examine Eliakim, we come to realize that he foreshadows Christ.

in the same way, just like Eliakim controlled who came into David's house, the Messiah will control who comes into God's house.

Matthew 7:13-14

Small and weak and yet Faithful

look at v.8

This church wasn't strong and it probably wasn't big. In fact if you remember Sardis from last week. They were big. They had a big reputation for being alive and yet Jesus called them out and said they were dead. The small church. The struggling church here In Jesus view was staying faithful. It needed to rely upon the resources of Jesus.

What is the end result?

look at v.12

1. one of the ways they would honour someone that had served the state well was that they would erect a pillar in a temple with their name written on it or they would simply inscribe the name of someone on a temple pillar. Everyone would see and remember that person.

-Jesus is communicating to them that those that overcome. Those that are faithful and victorious in the midst of hardship will be honoured by God.

2. Philadelphia was situated near an active volcano. This was a blessing and a curse. The blessing was that it would create very fertile soil, as well as hot springs. The curse is that there were lots of earthquakes because of it. A constant danger so people were

Letter to Philadelphia: Study Notes

constantly being pushed out of the city. In fact history shows that some people were so scared of it that they left the city each night.

Jesus says if you remain faithful/victorious to me, you will become a pillar in the temple of God. you will enter the city of God and you will never leave it.

Jesus is telling them that He is their security. He is their unshakeable foundation.

Life Group Discussion

(feel free to use any or all of these questions)

Warm Up:

1. What stood out to you about Sunday's message? What was interesting? Confusing? Weird? Thought provoking? If you didn't hear the message maybe comment on Revelation 3:7-13

Study & Discussion:

Read together: Revelation 3:7-13

1. In this passage Jesus talks a lot about open and closed doors. In fact in verse 8 he says, "I have opened a door for you that no one can close". What did He mean by this? What doors has He opened for you that no one can close?
2. Later on in that verse He says, "You have little strength, yet you obeyed my word and did not deny me". What little strength do you think He is referring to? How did they please God and what does that look like? **Read: Isaiah 41:10** . This was originally written to the nation of Israel, but it applies to us his people today as well. In what areas do you need God to strengthen you today?
3. In verse 12 Jesus talks about writing His name on us. **Read Ephesians 1:13**. In most translations it uses the word seal. This refers to God placing his name on us. How is this important for you?
4. Are there any other "take aways" for you from this passage in Revelation?

Prayer:

1. Is there someone outside the group you would like prayer for today?
2. Is there an area of your life that you would like prayer for today?
3. Is there an area of healing you would like prayer for?