

Wednesday Evening Bible Study
The Book of Revelation
3: 7-13

- As we continue our study of the book of Revelation, we come know to the 6th church, of the 7 churches of Asia, the church of Philadelphia
- This church is also known by the name, “the _____ church”
- As I have done each night of this series, let me remind you of a few general truths we need to keep in mind as we examine these 7 churches of Asia

1) Remember The Pattern Of These Letters . . .

- a) As we have examined these churches we have noted that each church is commended by Jesus, for doing certain things right, and then each church is condemned by Jesus, for failing to do certain other things.

2) Remember The Purpose Of These Letters . . .

- a) And each of these churches also reveals, in part, the actions and attitudes our church must repress if we are to become a total and complete church for the glory of God.

3) Remember The Timeline Of These Letters . . .

- a) Here’s the outline, as given by Clarence Larkin in his book, “Dispensational Truth”

- 1) The church at Ephesus (loveless church) AD 70-170
- 2) The church at Smyrna (persecuted church) AD 170-312
- 3) The church at Pergamus (compromising church) AD 312-606
- 4) The church at Thyatira (corrupt church) AD 606-1520
- 5) The church at Sardis (dead church) AD 1520-1750
- 6) The church at Philadelphia (faithful church) _____
- 7) The church at Laodicea (lukewarm church) _____

- b) Granted, not EVERY church in each of these periods had all these problems, but the vast majority did

4) The Church of Philadelphia

- a) **Notice v. 7, “who” is saying these things to John?**

- 1) “He who is holy and true, He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens.”
- 2) Each of these statements contains a little “foreshadowing” of what is to come later
 - (1) “He who is holy” Acts 3:14
 - (2) “He who is true” I John 5:20
 - (3) “He who has the key of David” Isaiah 9:7, 22:22
 - (4) “He who opens and no one shuts” Matthew 16:19
 - (5) “He who shuts and no one opens” Job 12:14

b) In v. 8, Jesus begins to describe the church at Philadelphia

- 1) “I know your works. See I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it;”
- 2) This “door” is a reference to the hearts of men, women, boys, and girls!
- 3) This was the era of great revivals and spiritual awakening!
- 4) But how about YOU? Do you possess the evangelistic fervor and fire of our forefathers?

- 5) "Why" has the church at Philadelphia been given this divine opportunity?
- 6) See v. 8, "for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name"
- 7) The first reason is self-explanatory _____
- 8) But what is meant by "and have not denied My name"?
- c) **v. 9, "who" are, "those of the synagogue of _____"?**
 - 1) This is the same name given those in 2:9 Smyrna who persecuted the Christians
- d) **v. 10, there's a great promise made to those in Philadelphia concerning the last days**
 - 1) "I also will keep you from the hour of _____ which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth"
 - 2) The "hour of trial" is the Great Tribulation, which is described from Rev. 4 to Rev. 20
 - 3) Notice Jesus says that He will keep us "from the hour of trial" not just "through the hour of trial"
- e) **v. 11, In my mind this tells me that there will be an effort to take the crown from those who are trying to "keep My word, and not deny My name"**
 - 1) So, "hold fast" for "Behold I am coming quickly!"
- f) **v. 12 contains precious promises for those who overcome . . .**
 - 1) "I will make him a _____ of the temple of My God"
 - 2) In Philadelphia it was the custom of the people to recognize the great leaders, benefactors, and philanthropists of the city to place a pillar in one of their temples with the person's name inscribed upon it
 - 3) "he shall go _____ no more"
 - 4) In the Garden of Eden, God had to "drive" Adam and Eve out for their sin
 - 5) In the OT temple, the Priests were "driven" out by death.
 - 6) But in the "New Jerusalem" there'll be no sin and no death to ever drive us out of God's presence ever again!
 - 7) "I will write on him the _____ of My God, and the _____ of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My
 - 8) God."
 - 9) I cannot say that I know exactly "what" the "new name" will be, but I know it will only add to the blessed names He already possesses
 - 10) Philadelphia was the city of "brotherly love" because the people in the church there loved Jesus first and foremost. And their love for Jesus moved them to love their Brother.