

Revelation 3:7-13

I. The Church At Philadelphia (3:7-13)

A. The Splendid City of Philadelphia (3:7a)

1. “Philadelphia” means.... “**Brotherly Love**.”

NOTE: The city was named for its founder, Attalus II, because of his great love and admiration for his brother Eumenes.

2. Philadelphia was located **25** miles S.E. of Sardis and about 125 miles from the coast.
3. Philadelphia is located in an area subject to frequent earthquakes. It was destroyed in **17** A.D. by the same earthquake that destroyed Sardis.
4. There was a noticeable Grecian influence upon the city. It was called “**Little Athens**.”
5. The city was known for its **wine** production.
6. The city has been continually inhabited since its founding. Its present name is Ala-Sheher, which means “**City** of God.”

B. The Spiritual Condition of Philadelphia

1. There is little evidence of gross paganism in Philadelphia; however, there is evidence that there was **opposition** to the gospel when it arrived.
2. The spiritual climate was that of a fierce wind of opposition, with few clouds of cultism.

C. The Supernatural Church of Philadelphia

1. The origin of the church is **unknown**.
2. It is possible that this church was founded as an outgrowth of Paul’s ministry in **Ephesus**, as the Sardis church may have been.
3. This church is only mentioned twice in scripture, both times in the Revelation.
4. The church was a persecuted church with “little **strength**,” yet it remained faithful to Christ.
5. There is still a Christian influence in the city to this day.
6. This church possibly represents the period of time from 1800 A.D. to the 1950 A.D.
7. The church represents the time of great missionary endeavors.

- D. The Sovereign Counselor of the Church of Philadelphia (3:7b): "...these things saith He that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth and no man shutteth; and shutteth and no man openeth:"
1. Jesus begins again with a reference back to the chapter 1 vision of Himself.
 2. Jesus claims His **deity**... "He that is holy..."
 - a. Holiness is an attribute or characteristic that only God can claim.
 - b. By making this claim, Jesus asserts His equality with the Father.
 - c. As the "Holy One" Christ is right in His **character**.
 3. Jesus claims to be **Truth**.... "He that is true..."
 - a. Because Jesus is Holy, truth is naturally a part of His character.
 - b. As the "True One," Christ is right in His **conduct**.
 4. Jesus actions must mirror His attributes.
 5. Jesus possesses the "key" of David... a symbol of authority. Note: Is. 22:22...the key of David gave Christ the authority to occupy the throne of David as God promised.
- E. The Superb Commendation of the Church of Philadelphia – (3:8)
- "I know thy works: behold I have set before thee an open door and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name."
1. This church was a working church.
 2. Because of its **steadfastness**, there was a great door of opportunity given to it.
 3. This church had remained faithful in the face of compromise.
- F. The Somber Counsel to the Church of Philadelphia (3:9-10)
- "Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews and are not but do lie; Behold I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and know that I have loved thee. Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth."
1. This church had been persecuted by those of the "synagogue of Satan" and had been pushed to the brink of destruction by them. Jesus promised that those who persecuted them will one-day bow to them.
 2. This church had been **faithful** and as such would be exempted from coming tribulation.

G. The Solemn Challenge to the Church of Philadelphia (3:11-12):

“Behold, I come quickly: Hold that fast which thou hast that no man take thy crown. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out; And I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.”

1. This is the third mention of His coming. (1:7, 2:25, 3:11)
2. Jesus challenged them to “hold that fast which thou hast...”
 - a. They had little **physical** strength, but great power with God.
 - b. They had His **word**
 - c. They had His **name**
 - d. They had His **promise** to come again.
3. Jesus warned them not to allow anyone to “take thy crown.”
 - a. The crown is not **salvation**. (Rom. 8:28-39; Jn. 10:27-31)
 - b. The **fruit** of salvation is works (Eph. 2:8-10; James 2:18)
 - c. We will be rewarded for our works as Christians with crowns. (2 Tim. 4:8; Jas. 1:12; 1 Pet. 5:4)
 - d. It is possible to lose those rewards (Col. 2:18; 2 Jn. 8)
4. The overcomer is the one who is victorious by faith.
5. The overcomer will be made a “pillar in the temple...”
 - a. A reference to security in Christ
 - b. Indicating the eternal presence and nearness of God in the temple.
6. There are three names mentioned to this church
 - a. The name of my God - speaks to **Sonship**
 - b. The new name of the city - speaks to **Citizenship**
 - c. The new name of Jesus - speaks to **Relationship**.