

## *Revelation Ch. 3 - Philadelphia*

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**V:7** *"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; 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;"*

**V: 7a** *"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write;..."*

- Philadelphia represents the missionary church; the revived church emphasizing the return to the Word of God.
- Prophetically representing the time period from 1750 to the rapture.
- Philadelphia is currently a thriving Turkish town, "Alashehir"
- Originally established to spread the Greek language.
- Typical Greek culture including pagan gods, practices, and temples.
- Main crops were grapes & wine, worshipped "Dionysus", god of wine and revelry.
- Later the city was known for its resistance to the Muslim influence during the Middle Ages it remained as a "Christian" city until the 14<sup>th</sup> century, long after the rest of the region had been given over to it. There is still a "remnant" Christian church today.
- Lots of earthquakes in the area of Philadelphia ran most of the population off.
- Various pagan leaders from the East slaughtered those that remained as they came through conquering the area.
- Philadelphia is located 28 miles South West of Sardis, it was a Greek colonial outpost, under the jurisdiction of Sardis.
- Part of the reformation, yet distinct.
- As an outpost city it was used to protect the greater cities of Ephesus, Sardis, and Pergamum.
- Its name came from Attalus II who loved his brother Eumenes who was king of Pergamum and called it "the city of brotherly love."
- Like the church in Smyrna, Philadelphia does not receive any rebuke, both churches were living and serving as Christ had directed.
- Philadelphia maintained a faithful witness in the midst of general apostasy and un-belief.

- In the 18th / 19th centuries great revivals swept over the "reformation lands", revivals erupting in America and Northern Europe.
- Salutation: This is the 7<sup>th</sup> and last occurrence of "Philadelphia", brotherly love, as opposed to agape love etc., in the New Testament.
- Philadelphia is God's faithful church in the last days.

**V: 7b**      *"... these things saith He that is holy, He that is true,..."*

- From Jesus, identified as:
  1. Holy
  2. True
  3. Has the key of David
  4. He that opens and no man can close.
  5. He that closes and no man open.
- None of these titles speak of judgment as some of the previous titles do.

### ***Holy:***

**Isaiah 57:15**      *"For thus saith the High and Lofty one that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the High and Holy place,..."*

- Jesus who is Holy and True, holy at his birth, and holy at His death and resurrection.

**Luke 1:35**      *"And the angel answered and said unto her, the Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the highest shall overshadow thee: Therefore also that Holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God."*

**Acts 2:27**      *"Because thou wilt not leave my soul in Hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption."*

**2 Corinthians 5:21**      *"For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of god in Him."*

**Hebrews 7:26**      *"For such an high priest became us, who is Holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens."*

## Truth:

**John 1:14** "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

**John 14:6    John 17:3    John 8:31-32**

**1 John 5:20** "And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know Him that is true, and we are in Him that is true, even in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life."

**Psalm 33:4** "For the word of the Lord is right, and all His works are done in truth."

- For the first time the attributes of Christ identifying Him in the salutation are not from the list of the attributes describing Jesus from Ch. 1. This implies a new message based on some other appropriate attribute of Jesus.
- Jesus emphasizes His own unique attributes of absolute holiness and truth. The Philadelphians accepted this without question.
- Truth and Holiness must go together, similarly, sound doctrine always generates Godly practice.

**1 John 3:2** "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure."

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

Conversely:

**1 Corinthians 15:33** "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners."

**V: 7c** *"... He that hath the key of David, He that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;"*

**Matthew 28:18** "... all power is given unto me in heaven and in Earth."

- He possesses all the keys and has the prerogative of opening and closing doors.
- This particular title is from the Old Testament, not from Revelation chapter 1.  
Isaiah 22:22

**Isaiah 22:22** "And the key of the house of David will I lay upon His shoulder; so He shall open, and none shall shut; and He shall shut, and none shall open."

Verses 22-25 talk about Eliakim who was the steward over King Hezekiah's house, a descendant from King David who held the keys to the doors that led to the king's treasure. Sound similar....

- Jesus has the keys to Heaven and Hell, He controls the gates, judging - controlling who shall enter into each.

**John 14:6** "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: No man cometh unto the Father but by me."

**Revelation 1:18** "I am He that liveth, and was dead; and behold, I am alive for evermore, amen; and have the keys of Hell and of death."

- Jesus controls the gates to Heaven and Hell, judging who enters where just like before during Noah's time.

**Genesis 7:1, 16.** "<sup>1</sup>and the Lord said unto Noah, **come** thou and all thy house into the ark;" - "<sup>16</sup>And they that went in went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the Lord shut him in."

- There was only one door in the Tabernacle, only one way to God.
- Jesus bids us to come in unto Him, and He will at some point close the door to salvation.
- Jesus also controls the doors to true ministry, missionary opportunities, witnessing opportunities, opportunities to serve Him, by serving others.

**John 15:5** "I am the vine, ye are the branches: he that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing."

**Philippians 4:13** "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

1 Corinthians 16:8-9

2 Corinthians 2:12

Colossians 4:3

**V: 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."*

- In this verse Jesus begins a list of 7 commendations that continue on through verse 10. There is no rebuke to the church of Philadelphia!

**V: 8a**        *"I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it:..."*

**COMMENDATION #1** - *"I know thy works..."*

- Jesus is looking for fruit and He's finding it.

**Ephesians 2:8-10**    <sup>8</sup>For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: <sup>9</sup>not of works, lest any man should boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

**James 2:17-18**    <sup>17</sup>Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. <sup>18</sup>Yea, a man may say, thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works:"

**Matthew 12:33**    "Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit."

- I know your works, and I've set an open door before you that no one else can close. Jesus has been standing there with them.
- "I know thy works" - is the only description given of their works.
- This is the only letter where no description is given, but it is evident that whatever they were, they pleased our Lord.
- Their salvation is assured, Jesus has opened the door for them, and no one else can close it. No one can separate us from the love of Christ.

**John 10:27-30**    <sup>27</sup>My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: <sup>28</sup>And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup>My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all, and no man is able to pluck them out of My Father's hand. <sup>30</sup>I and my Father are one."

**Romans 8:35-39**

**Hebrews 13:5b**

Jesus is that open door.

**John 10:9**        "I am the Door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture."

**COMMENDATION #2**

*"I have set before thee an open door"* - and they walked through it.

- This door could be the joy of the Lord, and or to a knowledge of the scriptures.
- He's opened this door to us and wants us to step through the door to the word of God because there are other doors beyond that one, to fellowship, witnessing to others, to service, and to communion with God.

**Psalm 1:2-3** <sup>1</sup>Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. <sup>2</sup>But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in His law doth he meditate day and night. <sup>3</sup>And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

**2 Timothy 3:16-17 Romans 15:4 Psalm 119:11**

**Romans 6:23** "The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord."

- Sin separates us from God, the Word of God brings us back, redeems us. Double meaning, get it!
- Sin separates us from God, His Word separates us from sin.
- "This book will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from this book."

**V: 8b** *"...for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name."*

### **COMMENDATION #3**

*"... for thou hast little strength"* - power - the Philadelphians were a humble group of believers.

- Jesus is our strength, and was theirs. They relied on Him!

**John 15:5** "I am the vine, ye are the branches: he that abideth in me, and I in Him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."

**Psalm 18:2** "The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower."

- In our weakness, we see God's strength more clearly.

**2 Corinthians 12:9**

**2 Corinthians 12:9** "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

**1 Corinthians 1:27** "But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty."

**1 Corinthians 4:10** "We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but ye are strong; ye are honourable, but we are despised."

- Typically who are those that come to the Lord? *The humble or those who have been humbled.*

**Mark 9:35 1 Peter 5:5**

**Isaiah 57:15** "For thus saith the High and Lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones."

#### **COMMENDATION #4**

"... *and hast kept my word ...*" - in a time when there was a general denial of the Word of God, this church believed in the inspiration of the word, it's reliability, and it's authority, and acted on that belief.

**Psalms 138:2** "I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy Word above all thy name."

**John 8:31-32** "... If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

**John 14:21 John 14:23 John 14:26 2 Peter 1:20-21**

- The Philadelphian church / believers recognize and emphasize the authority of the Word of God. They not only believe in Jesus, they obey Jesus.

#### **COMMENDATION #5**

"... *and hast not denied my name.*"

- This group of believers remained true to Christ and to the Word of God when both have / are being denied not just by un-believers, but also from the pulpits and in seminary's who deny both the Word of God, and Jesus Christ.

**1 Peter 4:14** "If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the Spirit of Glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part He is evil spoken of, but on your part He is glorified."

**1 John 2:23** "Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: but he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also."

**Matthew 10:32-33** <sup>32</sup>Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in Heaven. <sup>33</sup>But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven."

**1 John 4:15** "Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God."

- This group proclaimed the Word of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They were faithful to His name!

#### **Ezekiel 39:7 Ezekiel 39:25**

- Basically, they've done a good job.
- They recognize the preciousness of Jesus' name, they boldly confess Jesus. Jesus is their most prized possession.
- Jesus was / is at home in Philadelphia where He is worshipped and delighted in, where His return is eagerly anticipated.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> commandment.

**Exodus 20:7** "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain."

**Psalms 139:20-22** <sup>20</sup>For they speak against thee wickedly, and thine enemies take thy name in vain. <sup>21</sup>Do not I hate them, O Lord, that hate thee? And am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee? <sup>22</sup>I hate them with a perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies."

**V: 9** *"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 to know that I have loved thee."*

**V: 9a** *"Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not,..."*

- Wherever the truth is proclaimed, Satan raises up a counterfeit to draw people away - then and today. False "Christians" abound.



- The church in Smyrna was also opposed by "false Jews", the same was true in Philadelphia.

**1 John 4:1** "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."

**Mark 7:6-8   Romans 9:6-7   Romans 2:28-29**

- The false apostles of Ephesus were "ministers of Satan", also the "false Jews" were a "synagogue of Satan"

**2 Corinthians 11:13-15** <sup>13</sup>For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. <sup>14</sup>And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. <sup>15</sup>Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."

- True Jews are those who knew their messiah and had a personal relationship with him, as do any true believers.

**John 8:31-47** "If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham." - "You are of your father the devil, and you do his works."

- The synagogue of Satan is any place of worship that does not worship the one true God: Jesus Christ. The root of these places and practices are Satanic.

**V: 9b**        *"...but do lie;...."* (About being Jews / righteous)

- Satan is the father of all lies.

**John 8:44** "You are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

**V: 9c**        *"...behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee."*

**COMMENDATION #6**        Jesus loves them, and He wants it known.

**Philippians 2:9-11** <sup>9</sup>Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: <sup>10</sup>That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in Earth, and things under the Earth; <sup>11</sup>And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

**Isaiah 49:21-23**

**V: 10**        *"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."*

### **COMMENDATION #7:**

*"... thou hast kept the word of My patience..."*

- This church kept the word of God, and did it *patiently*, waiting on the Lord.
- This church is assured that they, the faithful, will not go through the great tribulation. They will be removed first, as all true believers in the Word of God will be.

**Isaiah 26:20-21**        <sup>20</sup>Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. <sup>21</sup>For, behold, the Lord cometh out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the Earth for their iniquity:..."

- They are not saved through Jacob's trouble; they are saved "from" it.

**Romans 8:1**        "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

- All the world means those that are left on Earth including Thyatira, Sardis, and Laodicea, and the rest of the un-believing world.

**Luke 21:36**        "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

**2 Peter 2:9**        "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the Godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished."

- Demonstrated with Noah and Lot.

**1 Thessalonians 1:10**        "And to wait for His Son from Heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come."

**1 Thessalonians 5:9**        "For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,..."

- Revelation Ch. 1 – then Revelation Chapter's 2-3, then Revelation Ch.'s 4-5, then Revelation Ch. 6 – the great tribulation.
- Being kept from the great tribulation is the promise stated here, not that they wouldn't go through trials which were expected.

**Philippians 1:29** "For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake."

**John 16:33** "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

- But their suffering won't compare to the "great tribulation" that starts in Revelation chapter 6. (6 & tribulation together, what a coincidence!! Not!)
- Eschatology / prophecy is something that we've been blessed to see played out before our eyes in the re-birth of Israel, the developing one world economy, the ecumenical movement to the one world religion, and the development of the "peace process" in the Holy Land, to name a few.
- The church in Philadelphia accepted all of this based on faith in the Word of God, they didn't have the luxury of seeing it play out.
- As opposed to other churches that couldn't see these events playing out in a literal fashion which led to spiritualizing, symbolizing, allegorizing all the above. Amillennialists take some of these positions.

**John 20:29** "Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."

**Hebrews 6:12** "That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises."

**V: 11** *"Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown."*

**V: 11a** *"Behold, I come quickly: ..."* Maranatha!!

- Jesus reiterates the expediency or eminence of His return.
- Not so much quickly as in suddenly, un-expectedly.

**Genesis Chapter 7** - flood / judgment - God's chosen were warned and prepared through obedience.

**Genesis Chapter 19** - Sodom & Gomorrah / judgment, God preserved His chosen, no one else survived.

- Both were un-expected, a surprise to those who didn't know God or hearken unto His Word.

- We are warned over and over, the time is near! **MARANATHA!** Again I say...

**Matthew 25:13** "Watch ye therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh."

**Revelation 22:20** "... surely I come quickly."

- We're not told to look for and prepare for the tribulation, we're told to look for Jesus and do His will.

**Titus 2:13** "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ;"

**V: 11b** *"...hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown."*

- That crown can't be taken from us, unless we allow it, or give it away - as Adam and Eve did.

**Matthew 24:4-5** <sup>4</sup>"Take heed that no man deceive you. <sup>5</sup>For many shall come in My name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many."

- If it's written on your heart, no one can take it away by way of deception or deceit.

**2 Corinthians 3:3** "Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the Living God, not in tables of stone, but in fleshly tables of the heart."

**Psalms 119:11** "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."

**Matthew 22:37** "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind."

- Losing your reward is not the same as losing your salvation.

**1 Corinthians 3:14-15** <sup>14</sup>"If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. <sup>15</sup>If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: But he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."

**2 John 8** "Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward."

**V: 12** *"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."*

**V: 12a**      *"Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of My God,..."*

- The subject of this portion of scripture is the reward, the pillar and the name, but notice that Jesus talks about "My" God speaking of the Father. The One for whom He lived to do the will of, the One who sent Him to die for us – absolute obedience and devotion.
- A pillar in the temple never leaves, it is permanent, always in the presence of God.
- Pillar (G-178) firm, permanent fixture  
Hebrew: monument, or sacred stone, personal memorial.
- There is still a pillar, the only one left from the city of Philadelphia, standing on a hillside amongst the trees. It is all that remains from the city of John's day.
- Always in the presence of God, I like that!
- In the spiritual temple now being erected, each believer is a living stone. We will be part of the temple of God!

**Ephesians 2:19-22**      <sup>19</sup>Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; <sup>20</sup>and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; <sup>21</sup>in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto a Holy Temple in the Lord: <sup>22</sup>In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the spirit."

**1 Peter 2:5**      "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."

**V: 12b**      *"... 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."*

- Branded! We will bear the mark of God, being identified with Him!

**Isaiah 62:2**      "And the gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name."

**Revelation 14:1**      "And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the Mount Sion, and with Him an hundred forty and four thousand, having His Father's name written in their foreheads."

**Psalm 37:37** "Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace."

**Isaiah 56:4-5** "For thus saith the Lord unto the eunuchs that keep my Sabbaths, and choose the things that please me, and take hold of my covenant: even unto them will I give in mine house and within my walls a place and a name better than of sons and of daughters: I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off."

**2 Corinthians 5:17** "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new."

- *Versus the mark of the beast which means certain death!*

**Revelation 13:16**   **Revelation 19:20**

**V: 13**     *"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."*

- True followers of the Lord will hear Him, He encourages us to listen.

**John 8:31b-32** "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed: and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

**Proverbs 8:33** "Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not."

**Jeremiah 13:10** "This evil people, which refuse to hear my words, which walk in the imagination of their heart, and walk after other gods, to serve them, and to worship them, shall even be as this girdle, which is good for nothing."

- Those that don't listen are considered evil...
- We were made to hear the voice / word of God.

**Deuteronomy 4:36** "Out of heaven He made thee to hear His voice, that He might instruct thee..."

- Philadelphia was a good, obedient, listening church. They obeyed the Word of God.