

Wednesday in the Word
Digging Deeper
June 1, 2022
Philadelphia

Revelation 3:7-13 KJVS

[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; [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. [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. [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. [11] Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. [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. [13] He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

He that hath an ear. If you are a regular reader and studier of God's Word then these letters to the churches have to be speaking to your soul. We have mentioned often that each letter can be applied to any given church at any given time. We can and must also apply these accolades and demerits to each of ourselves. For some weeks now we have linked arms with our wonderful Savior and strolled down a footpath called life. As we walk and talk with Jesus on our daily travels He is always addressing and correcting the minutia of our lives. He may speak to us about correcting personal sin or rebuilding broken relationships. Perhaps he is communing with your mind about forgiving a brother or assuring you that He is near to you in your loneliness. We are always in a two way conversation with Him and His answers are always consistently reinforced through His Word. These 7 letters to His churches have consecutively addressed our meaningless religious practices, or our forsaken love for Him, our suffering, poverty and faithfulness, our compromising with worldly practices, our being misled by false teaching, our spiritual death or our great need to wake up to His voice and even our pure hearts as rare as they can be. Here in His letter to Philadelphia He assures us that He is fully aware of our deeds, our fidelity to His Name and His promise to keep us from the hour of temptation that is coming on the world. Jesus knows us intimately and communes with us individually. What a special and personal joy it is to spend time with Him. A joy that so many reject. When we sit in His Word we are right where He wants us and where we want to be. In discussions with the Lord we often endure His reprimands and corrections but sometimes we are behaving as we ought and he delivers an encouraging message to us. Such is the case now in His letter to the Philidelphian church.

Let's dig in. He begins with a statement of His character in verse 7. He is Holy; pure and blameless. He is True; Of a genuine nature, corresponding to His Name. We can believe and trust His Word. He holds the Key of David. Isaiah 22:22. God long ago established the throne of

David and in this Messiah He had fulfilled it, materializing the promise of absolute control of God's Kingdom. We find this Key of great value as the only valid method of opening both the door to His Eternal Kingdom through faith in the Blood of Christ (John 10:7-9) and the door of opportunity completely under His control. Acts 14:27, 1 Corinthians 16:7-9, 2 Corinthians 2:12-13, Colossians 4:2-4. If you are one of those saints who will run ahead of the Lord to open your own doors or stand in defiance of God to close one, then understand the restriction of verse 7c of today's passage. Keep your hands off the doorknobs. They are His. Wait on Christ for answers to prayer and opportunity. You have no right or power to do otherwise. Verse 8 zooms in on the most predominant door. Imagine arriving to visit treasured friends who stand in their open doorway to usher you into their home. Our precious Savior welcomes us likewise as we enter into His rest having stood strong for His Name. Matthew 25:21. Verse 9 tells us of a struggle we ourselves have not suffered. The churches of Revelation were persecuted by the Jews. Revelation 2:9. We Christians now stand in defence of the Jews and their reestablished nation, heavily persecuted themselves and we are beginning to be persecuted by Satan through other evils. 2 Timothy 3:12, Revelation 2:10. We can discuss many other verses that describe this malady. Notice in 9b these evildoers regardless of religious persuasion will fall around us to worship the One True God. Verse 10 introduces an interesting prophecy. This hour of temptation could refer to the Great Tribulation Period soon to arrive or it could speak of the ramping up of evil days that will precede our escape. Matthew 24:14-21, 1 Thessalonians 4:17, 2 Peter 2:9. If this church is promised protection then what of the others? Questions like these lead some to claim that the 7 churches are representative of the chronology of the Church of Christ down through time and claiming this Philadelphia church is symbolic of the saved church of today. Jesus in verse 11 reminds us that time is short and even suggests that there is a limit to His distribution of the Victor's Crown. So, verse 12, He as always addresses His Overcomers, those victorious over sin. In the measuring of His great city and its Temple we find that we are integral parts in its construction. Revelation 21:1 and 2 and following. Ephesians 5:30-32. See also Hebrews 12:22-24 and Ezekiel 40-48. God's city and His temple exist in heaven and on earth and are represented by His desert tabernacle and in His people themselves. 1 Corinthians 3:9, 1 Peter 2:5. We will dwell there and be a part of Him and bear His Name and His City's Name and our own new name representing our character and our relationship to Him. Revelation 2:17. He that hath an ear, walk with Him and listen to Him as you stroll along the way. Remember the beautiful story in Luke 24:13-34. Focus on Verse 32. We've all had heartburn but this type tells us we walk moment by moment alongside the living Eternal God and Savior. Rest in His peace and share it. Luke 10:5-6. Remember Who resides within you and Whom you bring with you everywhere you go.