

DEAR CHURCH

Philadelphia: Endurance
Revelation 3:7-13
November 19, 2023

I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. - Revelation 3:8

I. JESUS - THE HOLY ONE

- Jesus is holy and true (Hab. 3:2-3; Mark 1:24; John 17:17; Rev. 6:10).
- Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of David (Is. 11:1, 22:22; Rev. 5:5).
- Jesus is sovereign. His works are unchangeable (Is. 9:7).
- Jesus knows all things (Mark 2:8; John 2:24-25).

II. THE FAITHFUL FEW

- The church in Philadelphia was small and oppressed, but they were faithful...
 1. In keeping the word of God (2 Tim. 2:15).
 2. In holding fast and not denying his name (Acts 5:41).
- Faithfulness comes from God, not from us, we must seek it (Exodus 34:6-7; Lam. 3:22-23; Gal. 5:22; 2 Tim. 2:11-13).
- We are called to remain faithful to Christ but we should also be faithful to our fellow man. It's an all-encompassing word (Matt. 23:23).
- Christian disciplines help us to remain faithful (1 Tim. 4:11-16).

III. THE PROMISE

- The persecuting Jews will be humbled. They will see who Jesus loves (Vs. 9).
- The faithful will be kept from the "hour" of trial (Vs. 10).
- Jesus is coming soon (Vs. 11; 1 Cor. 16:22; Rev. 22:20).
- The faithful will receive a crown (Vs. 11; James 1:12; Rev. 2:10).
- The faithful will be immovable (pillar). They will receive the names of God (Vs. 12; Rev. 2:17).

KNOW: Sometimes faithfulness is simply about moving from one place to the next in our walk with Christ; holding on to what we have, with the help of God, and finishing the race. Christian disciplines are keys to keeping us faithful.

DO: Practice faithfulness. Work on it. Be there in the end.

Suggested Reading:

The Golden Booklet of the True Christian Life by John Calvin (Available in the LifePoint Library).

For Children:

Courageous Book Series by Voice of the Martyrs (Available in the LifePoint Library)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Revelation 3:7-13

1. What types of persecution are the believers in Philadelphia enduring?
2. There is a large contingent of Jews in Philadelphia. Why would it be important for the Christians to hear that Jesus has "the key of David?"
3. The seven churches of Revelation are within sixty miles of each other. How can there be such a wide variety of traits in these churches? How does that compare to churches today?
4. If you're a Christian in the church of Philadelphia, how do you feel overall about what Jesus has to say to you?
5. How do you feel about the fact that Jesus tells the church He's "coming soon," and yet, almost 2,000 years later, here we are?
6. As far as we can tell historically, the church in Philadelphia outlived all the churches in Asia minor. Why, do you think?
7. How would you have fared in the church of Philadelphia? What application points are there for you in this letter?