

FAITHFUL UNDER PRESSURE

Revelation 3:7-13

Christ's Message To The Church Of Philadelphia

REVELATION 3:7-8

- ⁷ “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: ‘The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.’
⁸ “ ‘I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.’

REVELATION 3:9-11

- ⁹ Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie— behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you. ¹⁰ Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. ¹¹ I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.

REVELATION 3:12-13

- ¹² The one who conquers, I will make him ^ka pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. ¹³ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

I. THE CHURCH'S AUTHORITY OF CHRIST (7)

- *7 “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: ‘The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.*
- Holy
- True
- Keys of David

**II. THE CHURCH'S
ATTRIBUTE OF
FAITHFULNESS (8-10A)**

A. AS A FAITHFUL WITNESS, THEY CONTINUALLY PURSUED GOD'S OPEN DOORS OF EVANGELISM

- *8a “ ‘I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut.*

OPEN DOOR

- **Acts 14:27** “Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.”
- **I Corinthians 16:9** “For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.”

OPEN DOOR

- **2 Corinthians 2:12** “Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ’s gospel, and a door was opened to me by the Lord.”
- **Colossians 4:2-3** “Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving, meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains”

**B. AS A FAITHFUL MINORITY, THEY
DEPENDDED ON GOD'S STRENGTH,
NOT NUMERICAL STRENGTH**

- *8b* “I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

C. AS A FAITHFUL DEFENDER OF TRUTH, THEY DID NOT COMPROMISE SOUND DOCTRINE

- *⁹ Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you.*

**D. AS A FAITHFUL PERSEVERER,
THEY DID NOT DENY CHRIST
DESPITE PERSECUTION**

- *10^a Because you have kept my word about patient endurance,*

III. THE CHURCH'S AVOIDANCE OF JUDGMENT (10B)

- *10b I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.*

IV. THE CHURCH'S AWARD FOR VICTORY (11-13)

¹¹ I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. ¹² The one who conquers, I will make him ^ka pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. ¹³ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

A. CLING TO OUR OPPORTUNITY FOR ETERNAL REWARD (II)

- **2 John 8** “Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward.”
- **Colossians 2:18** “Let no one cheat you of your reward”
- **1 Cor 3:12,15** – works burned up, but salvation still intact
- **1 Cor 9:24** – run in such away where only one receives a prize – don’t let someone take it from you

B. REST IN GOD'S SECURITY OF OUR ETERNITY (12)

- Eternal Memorial
- Eternal Security
- Eternal Adoption

CONCLUSION – *THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A FAITHFUL CHURCH:*

- Holiness In Living (7)
- Truthfulness In Testimony (7)
- Obedience To His Sovereignty (8)
- Faithful In Evangelism (8)
- Soundness In Doctrine (8)
- Perseverance In Trial (8-10)