



The Book of Revelation
Session 10 & 11: The Letter to the Church at Philadelphia
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Revelation 3:7-13 Pt 1-2

Key things we want to keep in mind as we go through this study, the bible is an intentionally written book, from the inspiration of God Himself.

The bible reveals Jesus Christ and shows God's divine design for humanity, and it is useful "to prepare and equip his people to do every good work" as stated in 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

The Book of Revelation is about The Revelation or Unveiling of Jesus Christ and things which will soon take place.

A Unique Promise

Revelation 1:3, tells us the those who "Read... Hear... Understand and Keep" what is written in this book will receive a special blessing:

*With in the book of Revelation are Letters to the Seven Churches. These letters are **God's report card** for each of these churches.*

Not only did God have a report card on them, but God also has a report card on them, but God has on n us as well.

*For it states seven times in this book, "**He that has an ear let Him hear what the Spirit is saying**". If you can hear, then there is a report card on you in Heaven.*

These seven Letters should be view from three perspectives.

Historical view:

Life application:

Prophetic view:

We will be studying these churches primarily from a life application viewpoint.

Seven Design Elements or features, in the structure of Each of the Letters.

We will teach with these seven in mind:

- **Name of the Church,**
- **Title Chosen of Jesus Christ,**



- **Commendation,**
- **Concern,**
- **Exhortation,**
- **Promise to the Overcomer,**
- **The emphasis that the letters were written to everyone. “He that hath an ear, hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”**

The Letter to the Church at Philadelphia Revelation 3:7-13

Revelation 3:7-13 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things say He who is holy, He who is true, 'He who has the key of David, He who opens, and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens': 8 'I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. 9 Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie — indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. 10 Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. 11 Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. 12 He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. 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 out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name. 13 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'"

If you were to ask any church today, which one of the seven churches they would like to be like? I'm sure most of them would say that they would like to be like the Church of Philadelphia. But one thing we need to understand as we go through the information provided about these seven churches is this is a report card on how well the churches have done. You know, so lets us know how Jesus Christ looks at the individual churches as a whole and at us as individuals. The criteria that he is grading our lives on as we walk through this earth.

Name of the Church

Philadelphia, The Spiritually Alive Church: Philadelphia did well. There was no rebuke for this church of faith. They kept the name of Jesus and never denied it. There is a promise in the kingdom of heaven for these Christians.

Located in a volcanic area, earthquakes were an almost daily occurrence. This gave the Christians in Philadelphia the opportunity not only to be refined by trials, but also the opportunity to witness their faith in word and deed as different parts of the city were damaged in the frequent earthquakes. The ancient church



building is still standing." This obedient church which was commended by Christ Himself for their faithfulness.

Title of Christ

7... "These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens, and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens": "Holy"

"Holy": Holiness is an attribute of God especially noted in the Old Testament. It is used here with the common Old Testament reference that points to the success of the Philadelphian church in their mission work.

The Holy One of Israel (in **Isaiah 43:3** God says **"For I am the Lord your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior"**);

The Holy One of Israel, *Old Testament Name of the Messiah. This church allows God to show up as "the Holy One", because of the attitude and conduct.*

"True" -The statement "God is truth" speaks of God's morality. To say that God is truth is to acknowledge that truth itself proceeds from the nature of God.

While many things can have the truth, only one thing can be the truth, with that one thing being God Himself.

John 14:6 **6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**

The Hebrew term for "truth" is *emet*, which means "truth," "firm," "stable," and "faithful." The Greek word for "truth" is *aletheia*, which denotes being "truthful" or "upright" or "having nothing to hide." Because this church's goal with to liv and exhibit truth Jesus was able to present Himself as the all true one in the mists.

"Key of David" This is a reference to **Isaiah. 22:20-24** where Eliakim, with his authority over the doors of the palace of King Hezekiah. Eliakim is a type of Christ.

Isaiah 22:20-24 **And then I will call my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiyah to replace you. 21 I will dress him in your royal robes and will give him your title and your authority. And he will be a father to the people of Jerusalem and Judah. 22 I will give him the key to the house of David—the highest position in the royal court. When he opens doors, no one will be able to close them; when he closes doors, no one will be able to open them. 23 He will bring honor to his family name, for I will drive him firmly in place like a nail in the wall. 24 They will give him great responsibility, and he will bring honor to even the lowliest members of his family."**

The Key of David is full administrative authority: Eliakim carried a heavy key on a loop slung over his shoulder, indicating his power to grant or deny others an audience with the king. He alone provided access to the presence of the king.



Because Jesus won full authority and the right to the keys of the spiritual and physical world on the cross. He also has the right to grant entry to all who believe in Him, access into the presence of the father. A He has been given control to open and shut any door or area on the spiritual and physical worlds.

“Keys of the Kingdom”

Matthew 16:16-19 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

We have the authority and power in Christ to bind the enemy, to forbid, shut the door on satan and his cohorts, and loose their hold on us in every area of life.

Psalms 146:6-9 Who made heaven and earth, The sea, and all that is in them; Who keeps truth forever, 7 Who executes justice for the oppressed, Who gives food to the hungry. The Lord gives freedom to the prisoners. 8 The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; The Lord raises those who are bowed down; The Lord loves the righteous. 9 The Lord watches over the strangers; He relieves the fatherless and widow; But the way of the wicked He turns upside down.

We have the authority and power to shut every open door to the enemy entrance into our lives that he may try to use to bind us. We also have the power and authority to be used to set others free.

Luke 10:18-20 And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

This is the type of authority that Jesus has given to us! Authority the speak those things that are not as though they are. The authority to speak to adverse situations in our live and see them or removed or changed for our good!

Commendation

Note: No expression of “Concern”! (Only Philadelphia and Smyrna so encouraged)

8 "I know your works. (Like all the other churches Jesus lets them know He has His eyes on them). *Not with scrutiny, but we need to understand that Jesus is looking at us to see what good he can find, but rest assured that he will not ignore the things that concerns Him that needs to be corrected in our lives*

See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

Jesus is the Door, and the one who opens doors.



John 10:7, 9 Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep... **9 I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. We need to all ways keep in mind that in Jesus we have everything we need,**

"He Opens doors to ministry."

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,

So, we see when we go out to do what God has called us to do, the Lord will open doors of opportunity to be successful.

Colossians 4:2-4 Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; **3** 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 also in chains, **4** that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

With open doors comes opposition. **1 Corinthians 16:8** But I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost. **9** For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

The greater the door, the greater the opportunity to succeed, and comes greater the opposition and adversaries that will try to keep us from taking advantage of what God has offered.

*When Jesus closes doors no one can open them: Noah's Ark: closed by God (**Genesis 7:16**; For 7 days before the flood the Door was shut).*

*The door at the wedding of the 10 Virgins, the door was shut on 5 of them. (**Matthew 25:1-10**)*

...for you have a little strength, meaning they didn't have the physical strength, resources, and numbers to do the work God had called them to do.

Zechariah 4:6 So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the Lord of hosts.

Acts 1:8-9 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

...have kept My word and have not denied My name. This is why The Spirit moved on their behalf.

They had the supernatural ability of the Spirit because they obeyed the Word of God. And they let it be known their results was because of Jesus Christ by given Him the glory.

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Always remember there is someone who need the light of the word of God shining through you.

9 Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie.



...**Synagogue of Satan** -- A bold reference to the Jews who say they are Gods children.

Romans 2:28-29 For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; 29 but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.

Matthew 7:21-23 On judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.' 23 But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws.'

Christ says they are the children of the devil because they oppose God Himself in Jesus Christ. Jesus spoke of these same sorts of people when He was here on the earth.

John 8:43-47 43 Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. 44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. 45 But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me. 46 Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me? 47 He, who is of God, hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God."

— indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.

An Old Testament reference of this is found in Isaiah 43 verses 1 through 5.

Isaiah 43:1-5 But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine. 2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you. 3 For I am the Lord your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I gave Egypt for your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in your place. 4 Since you were precious in My sight, You have been honored, And I have loved you; Therefore I will give men for you, And people for your life. 5 Fear not, for I am with you;

Don't worry about those make-believe Christians, and others who maybe persecute you, talk bad about you, and make fun of your true worship. One day they will bow before you. Because when they bow before Jesus, He's the head, but we're the body. So, when they bow before Jesus, they will actually be at the feet of the body with is the church.

10 Because you have kept My command to persevere, *persevere* in the Greek is [*hypomonēs*], which may include the idea of expectation related to the promise to be kept from the hour:

Perseverance is especially needed amid adversity. Jesus said in **Luke 21:16-19** that it would be by patience that believers “possess your souls”.



Some hold that the word *hypomone* sometimes meant '(patient expectation).' They indicated that is its meaning in the expression 'patience of Jesus Christ' in **Revelation 1:9**.

The same Greek word [*hypomonēs*], is used in Mathew chapter 24:13. Let's read 4-14 some you can get the just of the text.

Matthew 24:4-14 And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. 6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.

9 "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. 10 And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. 11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. 12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. 13 But he who endures [*hypomonēs*], to the end shall be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

So, we see Patience, Perseverance, and endurance is all needed to inherit what Jesus has for us and to escape the wrath of God.

...I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

This verse does not say that the Church will be merely kept safe *during* the trial, but it will be kept *from the very hour* of trial, that is, from the very *time* of it. This requires removal before the Tribulation ever occurs. This is what we call "the rapture"!

Here are a few scriptures that will back up this point.

2 Peter 2:9 then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,

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

Roman 5:8 : But God commended his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

Exhortation

11 Behold, I am coming quickly!... Jesus will come quickly.



1 Corinthians 15:51-52 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed — 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

The twinkling of an eye is also as fast as the speed of light.

...Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. I don't believe this is referring to the Crown of Life, for there are at least 5-7 crown mention in the word of God that a believer can receive at the bema seat of Christ.

Why does it say let no one take your crown? Because there are awards that are designated for us to receive before we were born.

Our rewards can be stolen by choosing not to persevere, not being faithful, and overcoming what life has to throw at us.

We must keep this scripture in mind.

1 Corinthians 10:12-13 (New Living Translation) If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall. 13 The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.

Promise to the Overcomer!

12 He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. 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 out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.

“Pillar” -- In earthquake-prone Philadelphia, the pillar was a symbol of solid permanence. Not only will the faithful who remain faithful to the end of their lives be made so solid and permanent, but they shall be so in the temple of God. The use of the word *pillar* (column) seems almost prophetic in light of the description of the modern Philadelphian Church "a column in a scene of ruin."

Such a faithful person shall be signed, sealed, and confirmed by three names:

The name of God -- adopted and named a child of God through Jesus Christ.

The Name of the City of God -- the New Jerusalem the permanent address of all the saved (**Phil. 3:20**). This new Jerusalem is of special significance to the Jewish convert.

Jesus is Lord~Assembly of Love
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My New Name -- we are not told what this new name is.

1 Corinthians 13:12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

The City of God -- The New Jerusalem is described in detail in Revelation 21:2-22:5.

13 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Laodicea, The Lukewarm Church: The church of Laodicea, unlike Philadelphia, only received rebuke. They were neither hot nor cold as we read in Revelation. Their reliance on riches and things of this world resulted in a lukewarm, halfway-in type of Christianity.