

**The Messages of Jesus to the 7 Churches**  
*You Will Be Honored*  
**The Church at Philadelphia**  
Revelation 3:7-13

Introduction:

Now we will look at the next church to receive a letter from our Lord: Philadelphia.  
Read Revelation 3:7-13.

**The Descriptions of Jesus (3:7-9, 11):**

1. **He is the Holy One (v.7).**

2. **He is the True One (v.7).**

- Over and over again in the book of Revelation we see these emphases. Jesus is the Holy God and He is true and faithful in all of His ways. This emphasis is meant to be a contrast between us and God. We are unlike God in that we are not holy and we are often unfaithful and given to self-deception. Even these letters to the 7 churches reveal this—5 of the churches are rebuked for their failures in being faithful and true to God.

*APPLICATION: We must be careful to remember God's holiness and faithfulness and not think of Him as being like sinful man. We must praise Him that He is indeed holy and trustworthy in all His ways. We must pray for grace to change and become more holy and faithful in our lives so that we can be like Him and shine in the darkness of this world for Him.*

3. **He is the one who has the key of David (v.7).**

- This shows us that Jesus is the chosen one, the Messiah, the Christ, the King of Kings, of the house of David that is to rule the earth in righteousness and justice from Jerusalem in Israel. Many prophecies point to this event, called the Millennium, which will take place after the prophecies in Revelation 4-19 are fulfilled. Only Jesus, the Son of God has the right and the power to rule and reign over the earth.
- This also shows to us that, as holder of the keys, only Jesus can allow people to enter into His eternal spiritual kingdom. If we do not come through the narrow way, through repentance and faith in Jesus, He will not allow us entrance into His kingdom. He controls who enters His kingdom, just as He controls who enters hell (1:18).

4. **He is the one who opens and no one will shut (v.7-8).**

5. **He is the one who shuts and no one will open (v.7-8).**

- The Lord Jesus is completely sovereign over His people and the opportunities they have to spread the Gospel. It is He that opens the door

for the Gospel in a place and brings people to saving faith in Him. When God opens a door for His work, no one can shut it—no persecutors, no government, no religious leaders, nor even Satan and his demons. Jesus opened the door for the Gospel in Philadelphia and no one can shut it but Jesus Himself.

- The door was opened by Jesus, but the Philadelphians had to go through the door. They had to receive His Word, obey it, and spread the Gospel so that more might enter in that door of salvation. The apostle Paul refers to opportunities to preach the Gospel to those that will listen “open doors” opened by God (1Corinthians 16:9; 2Corinthians 2:12; Colossians 4:3)

*APPLICATION: Rejoice in the fact that no one can stop the work of God in saving people from their sins if He has opened a door! Rejoice that Jesus is in control and no one can stop His work of grace!*

*Realize our responsibility of taking advantage of the open door and believing on Christ and serving Him. If we fail to believe, if we fail to preach the Gospel when the door has been opened, Jesus may shut the door of opportunity. When He shuts a door, no one can open it but Jesus Himself.*

*We must pray for open doors to give the Gospel to individuals we are burdened for and in places we have not yet had opportunity to witness.*

## **6. He loves His people (v.9).**

- Jesus does not just call us to Himself to use us. He saved us because He loves us. He wants us to serve Him for our good, that we may receive His blessings and rewards.

## **7. He is coming soon (v.11).**

- Jesus is coming and He is coming soon. “Soon” refers to God’s view: to the Lord, 1,000 years is like 1 day. It reminds us to be prepared because we do not know when He will come. Here Jesus is comforting His people. He is the True One; He will most certainly come for us just as He said (2Peter 3:8-10).

*APPLICATION: Take joy in the love of our Lord towards us. Believe His Words and realize that when we obey and follow God it is for our good as well as for His glory. Keep your heart focused on His faithfulness and His promise to come again and take us to be with Him before the Day of the Lord begins.*

## **Praise from Jesus for the Church in Philadelphia (3:8-10):**

- 1. They have but little power but they kept God’s Word**
- 2. They have but little power but they have not denied Jesus’ name**
- 3. They patiently endured persecution**

- Jesus emphasizes that He understands that they are weak but they had trusted in the Lord and His grace. They were faithful in the midst of

persecution. They loved and feared God more than they loved and feared man.

APPLICATION: Endurance and faithfulness in persecution is one of the main themes of the book of Revelation. Those who conquer/overcome are those who endure and keep their faith and confess Christ no matter how much trials and persecutions come because of their faith. Are you enduring? Are you a conqueror through God's grace? Are you confessing Christ even when to do so means ridicule and other hard consequences before others? 5 of the 7 letters give praise to the churches because they had not denied Christ's name in times of persecution.

### **Rebuke from Jesus to the Church in Philadelphia: NONE!!!**

### **Call by Jesus to the Church in Philadelphia to Repent: NONE!!!**

- Jesus was pleased with the church at Philadelphia. They were faithful and serving God and enduring. Their church had not left their first love, was guarding the Gospel, and its people were seeking after holiness. They were not perfect, but they were striving to please God.

APPLICATION: *Sometimes Christians think that they cannot please God until they get to heaven? Is this true? NO! We can please God right now by believing His Word and obeying His commands. When we fail we confess our sin and forsake it. When God's Spirit convicts us of a sin, we put it away and seek God's grace to change. Those who love God and His Word and are seeking to be holy are pleasing to God.*

### **Encouraging commands from Jesus to the Church in Philadelphia (3:9-11):**

#### **1. Patiently wait to be honored by Jesus.**

- This is a precious truth: out of His love, Jesus promises to make all the peoples of the earth, and especially the false teachers and persecutors, come and bow down to God's people at Jesus' command. He will lift us up and honor us even though now we are often despised and hated. This is a very important part of Jesus' teachings. Right now we are like Jesus in His sufferings. In that Day we will be like Him in His glory. The last in this age will be first in that age.

Read Matthew 19:28-30; 20:16

APPLICATION: What an awesome encouragement from our Lord! We are last here for only a little while and then we will be honored by our Lord! He knows our works and will reward them. We must have patience and faith as we wait for that day.

#### **2. Hold fast what you have so that no one may seize your crown**

- The crown here is the crown of victory, representing our rewards to be given by God for overcoming. If we give into temptation and reject Christ in persecution, we will not endure. Our false faith is revealed when we fail to endure to the end.

APPLICATION: Compare the Christian life to a race to be won. Those whose faith is not fixed on the Lord will stop running and will give up. They will not win. **DO NOT STOP!!!** Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus and what He did for you and the inheritance to come!!! Many believe for a time and then fall away because of trials or temptation. But you, **HOLD FAST TO WHAT YOU HAVE!!!**

### **Rewards for Conquerors (3:9-12):**

**1. They will be lifted up by Jesus.**

**2. They will be kept from the hour of trial to come upon the earth.**

- Those in this age of grace who are still living at the time that the Day of the Lord, the Day of Judgment, is to begin will be called up by Christ and taken to be with Him before the hour of trial. We are not destined for this wrath of God because we have received His mercy in the age of grace.
- Some Christians believe that this will not happen. They believe that God's people, the Church of Christ, will not be taken away before the hour of trial but will endure it with the rest of the world. This verse is one of several that lead us to believe that we will NOT be here during the Day of the Lord.

APPLICATION: *This is a great blessing from God to know that He will rescue us from the earth before His wrath comes upon it for unbelief and rejection of the Gospel. This gives us even more reason to strive to lead people to Jesus lest they have to enter the hour of trial that is to come upon the earth.*

**3. They will receive a crown of victory.**

**4. They will be a pillar in the temple of God, never to go out of it.**

**5. They will have the name of God, the name of the heavenly city of Jerusalem, and the name of Jesus written upon them.**

- Those that overcome will be compared to a pillar in the temple of God. They will never be separated from God again because of sin. They will enjoy God's presence and will see Him forever. The name of God, the name of the New Jerusalem, and the name of Jesus will be upon them. They will have complete access to God at all times. They will enjoy all of the glories of the new heaven and earth. No one will be able to refuse them because God's names are upon them.

APPLICATION: *This is the ultimate blessing of our inheritance. We will see God, know Him, love Him, serve Him, and enjoy His kingdom and His new creation without sin and separation forever. All blessing and joy and peace will be ours—all because of the blood of Jesus whose name will be written on us. Give praise to God!*