

Midweek Bible Study

Exposition of Revelation

Letter to the Church at Philadelphia

Rev. 3:7-13

I. Address and Christ's Self-Identification (3:7)

- A. Philadelphia

- B. He who is holy, true, who has the key of David
 1. Holy – perfectly pure, without mixture of sin or darkness
*Attribute of Deity (Mk 1:24; Lk 4:34; Jn 6:69)

 2. True – perfectly true, without mixture of falsehood or deception
*Deity of Christ – Rev. 6:10
*This church reflected the holiness and truth of her Lord.

 3. Who has the key of David (cf. 1:18*)
Refers to Isa. 22:22
The Key to the Davidic/Messianic kingdom/the city of God
 - a) who opens and no one will shut
 - b) who shuts and no one opens

II. Commendation (3:8)

- A. I know your deeds

- B. The open door
A door of opportunity for missions, evangelism (Acts 1:27; 1 Cor. 16:9; 2 Cor. 2:12; Col. 4:3)

- C. The reasons
 1. Little power – weak, poor, few resources, little influence
 2. Kept My word –
 3. Have not denied My name – “You didn’t backpedal.” Doug Kelly
Cf. Matt. 10:33; 2 Tim. 2:12

III. Promises (3:9-10)

- A. A great reversal (Probably “outed” them to the authorities)
 1. The promises to the Jewish people
Collective allusion to Isa. 45:14; 49:23; 60:14

 2. Those who reject Jesus, even though Abraham’s seed, are not the children of Abraham. Those who believe in Jesus, even though not physically Abraham’s seed, are the children of Abraham.



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3. God often then brings about great reversals regarding unbelieving Jews and believing Gentiles
Matt. 8:10-12; 21:33-43
Gal. 4:21-31
4. The prophecies of Isaiah are fulfilled with irony – the church has become the true Israel and the Jews have become the Gentiles.
5. Bow down before your feet and worship
6. They will know that I have loved you
Isa. 43:4; 48:14; 63:9
*This is designed to provoke the Jews to jealousy and salvation.

- B. Because you have the word of My perseverance
1. Kept My Word of Perseverance –
 2. I will keep you from the hour of testing
 3. Which is about to come upon the whole world
 4. To test those who dwell on the earth
= unbelievers (6:10; 8:13; 11:10; 13:8, 12, 14; 17:2, 8)

IV. Exhortation (3:11)

- A. I am coming quickly
- B. Hold fast what you have
Be diligent, guard your faith, guard the truth
- C. So that no one will take your crown

V. Promise to the Overcomer and Call to Hear (3:12-13)

- A. He who overcomes
- B. I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God
1. He will not go out from it anymore
 2. I will write on him the name of My God
 3. And the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem
Which comes down out of heaven from My God
*Membership in the City
Already/Not Yet = Gal. 4:26; Heb. 12:22
 5. And My new name
- C. He who has ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches

Conclusion

