

## Study 8: Revelation 3:7-13

### PHILADELPHIA

#### A. The Characteristics of the City: The secular state

Philadelphia was:

1. A “missionary” city – founded in order to spread Greek language and culture
2. Built on a fault line – the region was highly volcanic
3. Proud of its worthy officials – their names were inscribed on the pillars of the local shrines
4. Centre of wine making – Dionysus was the god of wine

#### B. The Condition of the Church: The spiritual state

##### 1. The DESCRIPTION of the Speaker

1:18b; 3:7

- > “He who is Holy...” in character.
- > “...true...” in government.
- > “...the Key of David...” – has absolute authority.

A revelation of the nature and quality of the speaker

##### 2. The REVELATION

3:8

“*I know...*” used commendably.

##### 3. The COMMENDATION

3:8. Notice that before He comes to their works which He knows, He gives them a promise.

- > A little strength – not strong.
- > Kept My Word – loyal to the truth.
- > Not denied My Name – and to the Lord of the truth.

##### 4. The CONDEMNATION

NONE expressed! No reproach, no judgement.

The second church with no complaint (as Smyrna).

## 5. The CAUTION

3:11

> Hold on to what you have – even if it is only one ‘talent’, only a little strength – see 3:8.

## 6. The EXPECTATION for the Overcomer

3:8, 9, 10, 12.

**a. Opportunity** – “...*an open door...*” (3:8) of evangelism and missionary opportunities. See Acts 14:17; 1 Corinthians 16:9; 2 Corinthians 2:12; Colossians 4:3.

**b. Victory** – “*I will make them come and worship...*” (3:9) – the enemies subdued, the false are shut out.

**c. Immunity** – “*I will keep you from the hour of trial...*” (3:10) – not free from temptation but in temptation. That is, He will keep you right through the hour of trial, either by delivering you from its fierceness, or by sustaining you in it.

**d. Security** – “*I will make him a pillar...*” (3:12). A pillar, fixed and secure in God’s House.

**e. Certainty** – “*I will write upon him the Name of my God...*” (3:12). To the Overcomer is given the certainty that he belongs to God and that he has a place in the eternal kingdom of God.

**f. Identity** – “*I will write on him My New Name.*” (3:12). Fully identified with the risen Christ.

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