

“Philadelphia = Faithful”
Revelation 3:7-13
8/30/26
Message 9

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “Philadelphia = Faithful”

- **Revelation – Timeline**

- **Show Timelines x 2**

- **Review - The Letters to the 7 Churches**

- **1. Message to Ephesus**

- Dealt with the LEAVING their FIRST LOVE

- **2. Message to Smyrna**

- Dealt with the issue of SUFFERING

- **3. Message to Pergamos**

- Dealt With a Compromising Church - Married the World

- One Foot With Jesus – The Other in The World

- Roman Catholicism... Under Constantine

- **4. Thyatira - The “Corrupt Church”**

- Roman Catholicism is in FULL Power

- Dark Ages

- False Teaching

- **5. Sardis – The “Dead Church”**

- Marks the Period of Time of the Reformation –
 - (Breaking away from the Catholic Church)
 - The reformers did a great job – they just DID NOT go far enough
- The Church had a NAME but it was DEAD
 - Jesus Tells them
 - "Be watchful..." = WAKE UP
 - Strengthen the things which remain
 - Remember therefore how you have received and heard
 - Hold Fast – Repent
 - If you don't wake up
 - My coming will be like a thief in the night
 - To the Remnant – HANG IN THERE

• **Now This Morning - 4 Encouragements From Jesus to Philadelphia = Faithful**

- The Person Who Delivers this Message vv. 7-8
- The Protection The Lord Gives vv. 9-10
- The Purpose Behind This Message That Believers Should Heed v. 11
- The Promise To Overcomers Encourages Us To Be Faithful vv. 12-13

The Person Who Delivers this Message vv. 7-8

• **1. His Character v. 7**

- **1. The Angel v. 7a**

Revelation 3:7 (NKJV)

7 “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, ‘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”:

- Pastor Or Angel?

- A Case can be made for both a Pastor OR an Angel

- **2. Philadelphia v. 7b**

Revelation 3:7 (NKJV)

7 “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, ‘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”:

- **The NAME PHILADELPHIA**

- Means = Brotherly Love

- Great name for a Church

- You will know you are my disciples by the love you have...

- May it be said of us

- **Historically**

- **1. The Church Age**

- Philadelphia Represents the church age from 1800s - Now

- This will be the one of the 2 prominent churches that is left when Jesus comes back

- Philadelphia and Laodicea

- The age of the Great Awakenings

- Began with Men like
 - Jonathan Edwards
 - Whitfield
 - Carey in India
 - Hudson Taylor in China
 - D. L. Moody in America
 - C. H. Spurgeon in London

- **Facts about the City**

- The city was located in Asia Minor - along a great trade route
- **(SHOW PICS)**
- Grapes - were one of the principal crops
- Dionysus - was one of the chief objects of pagan worship.
- The City was to be a center for spreading the
 - Greek Language
 - Culture
 - Manners
 - Throughout the Asian provinces
- It was vulnerable to natural disasters
 - Located near volcanoes
 - So it is Known for Earthquakes

- The city was destroyed by an earthquake in 17 A. D.
 - Along with Sardis and other cities in that area
 - Most of the other cities recovered rather quickly from the disaster
 - But the after-shocks continued in Philadelphia for quite a number of years
 - With the result that the people had to flee the city repeatedly
- **The Church in Philadelphia was a good church**
 - Smyrna - Philadelphia –
 - Didn't Receive a Rebuke from Jesus
 - Jesus only had GREAT things to say about this Church
 - A FAITHFUL CHURCH
 - A CHURCH with AN OPEN DOOR - that NO ONE CAN SHUT
 - A church we would all like to called
 - So does this mean they are a Perfect CHURCH?
 - No such thing as a Perfect Church
 - You have heard it said if you find one don't show up you will wreck it...
 - There are good ones but no perfect ones - why?

- Look around - what do we see...imperfect People
- We all have our flaws, imperfections...we all make mistakes
- **3. He Who Is HOLY v. 7c**

Revelation 3:7 (NKJV)

7 *“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, ‘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”:*

▪ **He Who is HOLY**

- It is CRITICAL we don't forget the HOLINESS of GOD
 - What do we see the angel around the throne crying out

Revelation 4:8 (NKJV)

8 *The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!”*

Isaiah 6:3 (NKJV)

3 *And one cried to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!”*

- If we forget the HOLINESS of God
 - We will miss understand all His other attributes
- The more I study the Holiness of God
 - The more I appreciate His Amazing Grace

▪ **Application - We are CALLED to BE HOLY**

1 Peter 1:15 (NKJV)

15 *but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,*

- Greek word: Hagios (hag'-ee-os)
- Definition: Set Apart, Holy, Sacred
- AKA = Saint = Believers...
- Believers are we truly separate from the world?!

○ **4. He who is TRUE v. 7d**

Revelation 3:7 (NKJV)

7 “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, ‘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”:

▪ **1. The Word "True"**

- Greek: ἀληθινός alēthinós
- Means –
 - Not hidden
 - "Real" or "Genuine"
 - One Who Cannot Lie
- Jesus is true in all of who He IS
- Jesus is the real God and the real Man
- Jesus has no hidden agenda.
- Jesus is not withholding information you need to know.
- Jesus is TRUTH

▪ **2. Application**

- In a World that is “Subjective” –

- Meaning that FEELINGS rule the day
- It is Nice to know that there is REAL – GENUINE TRUTH
 - Found in JESUS and His WORD

• **2. His Control v. 7**

Revelation 3:7 (NKJV)

7 “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, ‘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”:’

○ **1. The "Key of David"**

- Is referred to in Isaiah 22:20-25 – **Recap Briefly**

Isaiah 22:20–25 (NKJV)

20 ‘Then it shall be in that day, That I will call My servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah;

21 I will clothe him with your robe And strengthen him with your belt; I will commit your responsibility into his hand. He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem And to the house of Judah.

22 **The key of the house of David I will lay on his shoulder; So he shall open, and no one shall shut; And he shall shut, and no one shall open.**

23 I will fasten him as a peg in a secure place, And he will become a glorious throne to his father’s house.

24 ‘They will hang on him all the glory of his father’s house, the offspring and the posterity, all vessels of small quantity, from the cups to all the pitchers.

25 In that day,’ says the LORD of hosts, ‘the peg that is fastened in the secure place will be removed and be cut down and fall, and the burden that was on it will be cut off; for the LORD has spoken.’ ”

▪ Historical - BRIEF BACKGROUND

- Assyria had invaded Judah (as Isaiah had warned)
- The Jewish leaders were trusting Egypt...
 - NOT God, to deliver the nation.

- They had a treacherous leader,
 - A man named Shebna (shev·nä')
 - Who had used his office, not for the good of the people, but for his own private gain.
 - God removed Shebna (shev·nä') from office
- And PUT a faithful man
 - Eliakim (Eli-akim) in his place and given the keys of authority.
 - Eliakim was a picture of Jesus Christ
 - A dependable administrator of the affairs of God's people.
- This is A **Messianic Prophecy**
 - Keys Speak of Authority
 - Jesus has ALL Authority – Control
- **2. Jesus is Sovereign – Control**
 - In that sense, as the holder of the key of David
 - Jesus alone has the sovereign authority to determine who enters His Kingdom
 - Jesus has the control...He opens and shuts

Revelation 1:18 (NKJV)

18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

- That description stresses Christ's Omnipotence

- what He does cannot be overturned by someone more powerful
- "I act and who can reverse it?" declared the Lord in Isaiah 43:13

Isaiah 43:13 (NKJV)

13 *Indeed before the day was, I am He; And there is no one who can deliver out of My hand; I work, and who will reverse it?"*

• **3. His Challenge v. 8**

○ **1. I Know Your Works v. 1a**

Revelation 3:8 (NKJV)

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.*

▪ He KNOWS ALL

- The Good, Bad & Ugly

- Comforting and Scary = Depends on what you're doing!!!

○ **2. An OPEN DOOR v. 1b**

Revelation 3:8 (NKJV)

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.*

▪ **1. An Open Door – To GRACE and MERCY**

Hebrews 4:14–16 (NKJV)

14 *Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.*

15 *For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.*

16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

▪ 2. An Open Door to HEAVEN

Revelation 4:1 (NKJV)

1 After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."

▪ 3. An Open Door to Ministry - Spread the gospel

1 Corinthians 16:9 (NKJV)

9 For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

- I believe we have been given an open door to share His love with a lost world / we must take advantage of this / BE BOLD
- Right where you are
- Examples:
 - Work, Family, Friends, Facebook...

▪ 4. NO ONE CAN SHUT IT

- NO ONE –
 - Nothing can stop GOD from accomplishing His will – NOTHING
 - SO America Sign ALL the Bills you want to shut the church – It will NOT STOP THE GOSPEL
 - The gates of hell will not prevail – WE WIN!
- **3. Comfort from Jesus**

Revelation 3:8 (NKJV)

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."*

- **1. Dependent Upon The Lord's Strength**

- **1. "Little" Strength**

- "Little" Means

- Greek word is 'micros'
 - From which we get our English word microscope or microbe
 - It means: small in quantity, small in number, and small in dignity...That's small!

- **2. Rebuke or Encouragement?? - I am not so sure**

- Rebuke –

- Some have said this could be a little rebuke on how strong they ARE NOT

- Encouragement -

- 1. HOW Effective they are in a World that has turned its back on God
 - You're doing a great job – but the world is just not going responded...
 - 2. The term a little strength does not imply weakness
 - BUT real strength.
 - They were weak enough to be strong in the Lord.

- *Havner; "It is not a matter of great strength, not great ability but great dependability. Samson had great ability but poor dependability. A little strength faithfully used means more than much strength flashily and fitfully used."*
- They may NOT have had
 - Strongest Christians
 - Largest Church
 - Most influential church
 - Greatest Leaders
- But their "little strength" brought encouragement from the lips of our Lord

- **3. Application**

- We can be
 - "Too strong"
 - "Too big"
 - "Too sure of ourselves"
 - That God CAN'T Use US
- The church in Philadelphia
 - Had the poverty of spirit to know they really needed God's strength!
 - What wonderful assurance that brings to our own struggles!
 - Our tendency is to think that

- That GOD ONLY uses the Strongest & the Most Gifted to use
- BUT HE doesn't

1 Corinthians 1:27 (NKJV)

27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;

○ Illustration - Men God has used

- David / wasn't even in the room when Samuel came...
- Gideon's army of 300 defeated the Midianite army that was so vast that they were like grasshoppers for multitude; and their camels were without number, as the sand by the sea side for multitude.
- All the Disciples
- Listen to What Paul says

2 Corinthians 12:9–11 (NKJV)

9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

11 I have become a fool in boasting; you have compelled me. For I ought to have been commended by you; for in nothing was I behind the most eminent apostles, though I am nothing.

▪ 2. Dedicated To The God's Word

- Have kept My Word

- They received PRAISE from Jesus on how they kept His Word!!!
- They were Obedient to His WORD
- How Do we KNOW We are keeping His Word - Obedience
 - Obedience to God's Word is still the proof of our love for Christ (John 14:21; James 1:22-25)

John 14:21 (NKJV)

21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

- We ALWAYS need to ask ourselves
 - Am I a "doer of the Word"?
- **3. Devotion To The Lord Himself**
 - And have not denied My Name
 - These believers were loyal to the name and character of Jesus Christ!!!

The Protection The Lord Gives vv. 9-10

• **This protection of Jesus Christ deals with 2 Issues**

- The hostility of unbelievers
- The hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world

• **1. The Honor That Jesus Gives v. 9a**

- **1. The "Synagogue of Satan"**

Revelation 3:9 (NKJV)

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.

▪ **Was discussed previously in the letter to the church in Smyrna**

- The same language is used here as there
- It was a synagogue composed of those
 - WHO "SAY" they are Jews and are NOT"
- Revelation 3:9
 - Says they "Lie"
- Revelation 2:9
 - Speaks of their "Blasphemy" of the Christians in Smyrna
- Not Jewish people
 - NAME ONLY
 - They are from satan!!!

▪ **Application – PLEASE NOTE**

- Some of the Persecution we will receive
 - Will come from those WHO SAY they are Believers
- **2. Jesus will Honor THEM AND US v. 9b**

Revelation 3:9 (NKJV)

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.

- Jesus Christ will honor us in the eyes of unbelievers who have been hostile to us
 - They will be forced to admit that the despised Christians were actually the chosen flock.
- Application
 - Been / Being persecuted
 - NO matter how bad it gets remember Jesus will honor us when we stand fast to Him
 - So mock away world...

• **2. The Hour Of Temptation That We Will Not Suffer v. 10**

- **1. Because you have kept My command to persevere v. 10a**

Revelation 3:10 (NKJV)

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.

- **Persevere**
 - Greek: ὑπομονή *hupomonē*
 - Means: to persevere, remain under. A bearing up under, patience, endurance as to things or circumstances.
 - Not the words which Christ has spoken concerning patience, but the word of Christ which requires patience to keep it; the gospel which teaches the need of a patient waiting for Christ.
- **Because you have done what I have commanded = BLESSINGS**

- Living in the LAST Days will require us to –
PERSEVERE

- **2. Hour Of Trial?**

Revelation 3:10 (NKJV)

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.*

- **What is “The Hour Of Trial”**

- Is this speaking of just your Ordinary Trials?
 - Like James say Trails are good!!!
 - They produce great things in US
- NO – this is not just a normal trial
 - The definite article THE
 - “The” hour of trial
 - A Certain Time Period
 - So what is this TIME Period
- This TIME Period
 - The 70th Week of Daniel 9:24-27 – Turn there

Daniel 9:24–27 (NKJV)

24 *“Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.*

25 *“Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; (69) The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times.*

26 *“And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined.*

27 *Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate.”*

- After 69 Weeks Messiah Cut off
 - Thus is the time period were in right the age of Grace
- 70th Tribulation period / described in Rev. 6-18
 - KNOWN as - Jacob's Trouble

Jeremiah 30:7 (NKJV)

7 *Alas! For that day is great, So that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob's trouble, But he shall be saved out of it.*

- **3. Kept from the Hour of Trial**

Revelation 3:10 (NKJV)

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.*

- Jesus Christ will keep us from the hour of trial
 - Which shall come upon the whole world
- **4. What Does this Mean - Different Views**
 - **1. Good Christians Disagree**
 - It is a debate between Pre-Tribulationists & Post-Tribulationists
 - **2. The Issue - Does Revelation 3:10**

- **Promises a Removal** of believers from the hour of trial
- Or **Just Protection Immunity** from the trials
- **3. Post - Tribulationists**
 - Believe that God “Will Keep US”
 - Meaning - Speaking of Protection
 - Citing (John 17:15) To Support their interpretation of Revelation 3:10

John 17:15 (NKJV)

15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.

- They see this as a promise of
 - Immunity or Protection without Removal
 - They Also Argue
 - That there are **believers who live during** the tribulation period
 - As Proof that it means Protection not taken out
- **4. Pre - Tribulationists**
 - **1. SAY Yes - Believers in the Tribulation**
 - But they are NOT Church Age Believers
 - But a multitude who become Christians during the tribulation period on earth!
 - **2. Language Used**

- But Also Point to the language used –
 - TO support the REMOVAL of the church before this Hour of Trial

- **Break Down the Verse**

- 1. I will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world**

- 1. The Hour – Tribulation
 - 2. The Phrase To Keep
 - The verb “To Keep”
 - Is followed by a preposition whose normal meaning is “From” or “Out Of”
 - EK = “Out Of”
 - This phrase, “keep ... from” supports the Pre-Trib - Rapture of the church

- *Walvoord; “Though scholars have attempted to avoid this conclusion in order to affirm posttribulationism, the combination of the verb “keep” (tērein) with the preposition “from” (ek) is in sharp contrast to the meaning of keeping the church “through” (dia), a preposition which is not used here.*

- *The expression “the hour of trial” (a time period) makes it clear that they would be kept out of that period.*

- *It is difficult to see how Christ could have made this promise to this local*

church if it were God's intention for the entire church to go through the Tribulation that will come on the entire world. Even though the church at Philadelphia would go to glory via death long before the time of trouble would come, if the church here is taken to be typical of the body of Christ standing true to the faith, the promise seems to go beyond the Philadelphia church to all those who are believers in Christ (cf. Walvoord, Revelation, pp. 86–8).

○ **2. To TEST those who dwell on the earth:**

- Used 10 times, only of unbelievers.
 - (Rev. 7:9-17; 11:7; 13:7, 15; 17:8; 20:4)
- It speaks of those who are NOT saved in Jesus.
 - Revelation 17:8 makes the term synonymous with the lost!

○ **Summery**

- The word “from” is ek “out of” –
 - Natural sense is removal
- The definite article appears before “hour” and “temptation” –
 - Special period, not just trials in general
- This time will “come upon all the world” –
 - This phrase can only be used of the coming tribulation of Rev. 6-18

- The purpose is “to try them that dwell on the earth”

- Used 10 times, only of unbelievers.

- (Rev. 7:9-17; 11:7; 13:7, 15; 17:8; 20:4)

- NOTE- ALL The Early “Church Father”

- Believed in Pre- Trib –
- Other End Times Views were brought into the church Later
- Augustine and Catholic Church Amillennialist

The Purpose Behind This Message That Believers Should Heed v. 11

• 1. His Coming v. 11a

Revelation 3:11 (NKJV)

11 ***Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.***

- **1. HE IS COMING Quickly**

- Jesus said those exact words three times in the last chapter of Revelation

Revelation 22:7 (NKJV)

7 ***“Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”***

Revelation 22:12 (NKJV)

12 ***“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.***

Revelation 22:20 (NKJV)

20 ***He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming quickly.” Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!***

- The imminence of His return (can occur at any moment) is evident
- When He does come, it will happen "quickly"
- Surprise and suddenness are present in this declaration from Jesus Christ

• **2. His Challenge v. 11b**

Revelation 3:11 (NKJV)

11 Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

- **1. The challenge is to "Hold fast what you have"**
 - Hold Fast to Jesus and what He has called them / us too
 - Dedication and loyalty are being urged

• **3. The Consequence v. 11c**

Revelation 3:11 (NKJV)

11 Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

- **Christ's coming is held before the saints as a motive to steadfast endurance.**
 - They should not let anyone rob them of the victor's crown when it is so near at hand.
 - Guzik; "This was a crown of victory. Jesus encouraged His saints to finish their course with victory, to "play the second half" just as strongly as they "played the first half."

The Promise To Overcomers Encourages Us To Be Faithful vv. 12-13

Revelation 3:12–13 (NKJV)

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." '*

- **1. He will make the overcomer a pillar**

- **1st Pillars**

- Pictures of Strength, Stability, and Dignified beauty
- It's The Promise Of A Permanent Place
- "A pillar in the temple of My God"

- **2. Not to be taken literally but figuratively**

- According to Rev 21:22, there is no literal temple in the eternal city
- The "temple of My God" refers to the dwelling place of God
- The fact that we are described as "a pillar" indicates that we have a permanent place with the Lord forever and ever

- **3. He means we shall never be separated from Him**

- We will "dwell in the house of the LORD forever" (Psalm 23:6)

Romans 8:38–39 (NKJV)

38 *For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,*

39 *nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

- Nothing can ever separate us!

- **2. He will write on him some wonderful names**

- It Is The Promise Of A Special Identity

- Illustration – Dinner Party
- The Lord will write three things on us:
 - 1st "The name of My God"
 - We Belong to HIM
 - 2nd "The name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem"
 - We have a NEW place to LIVE
 - 3rd "My new name"
 - We Have a no ID – Brand New Creation

Closing

- Be Encouraged / Keep Fighting / Hold Fast
- HE IS COMING AGAIN AN SOON