

THE CHURCH IN PHILADELPHIA
REV. 3:7-13

Introduction:

- A. "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia, write."
 - 1. angel = messenger = pastor.
 - 2. Philadelphia = lover of one's brother.

- B. "These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;"
 - 1. holy = hag̃
 - 2. true = alethinos.
 - 3. Key of David = The authority that the legitimate descendant of King David would possess.
 - 4. openeth = anoigo - to open, stand open, spoken of doors, heaven, a book, the mouth, ears, and eyes.
 - 5. shutteth = kleio - to close, shut up.

I. THE CIRCUMSTANCES. V8

- A. "I know thy works."
 - 1. Know = oida - knowledge gained by observation.
 - 2. works = ergon = product of labor.

- B. "Behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it."
 - 1. open = anoigo - to open.
 - 2. door = thura = door, metaphor, opportunity.
 - 3. shut = kleio - to close.

- C. Three reasons for leaving the "door" open.
 - 1. For thou hast a little strength.
 - a. little - mikros - very small.
 - b. strength = dunamis = power.
 - 2. "and hast kept my word."

- a. kept = tereo - observe attentively.
- 3. "and hast not denied my name."
 - a. denied = arneomai - to disown, to say no.

II. THE MOST SERIOUS PROBLEM. V9

- A. "Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie."
 - 1. The non-Christian Jews in this city boasted themselves to be the national and aristocratic Jews, the true Jews, the chosen people, beloved and favored of God. They would be the victors and masters of the world when the Messiah should set up His kingdom.
 - 2. This was a lie!
- B. "Behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee."
 - 1. worship = proskuneo - to crouch, to crawl, like a dog at his master's feet, to prostrate one's self after the eastern custom, to do homage.
 - 2. know = ginosko - to be influenced by one's knowledge

III. A SPECIAL EXEMPTION. V10

- A. "Because thou hast kept the word of my patience."
 - 1. kept = tereo - to observe attentively.
 - 2. patience = hupomene = The spirit of bearing under, with blazing hope. You remember my patience suffering.
- B. "I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth."
 - 1. A time of great trial will pass over them. God will spare them the depths of persecution and trouble that would befall others because of their enduring optimism.

2. If this is considered by some to be unfair, let them quarrel with God!
- C. "Behold, I come quickly; hold that fast which thou hast that no man take thy crown."
1. hold fast = drateo - to firmly grasp.
 2. crown = stephanos = of kings a crown, of victors in games, a wreath, a circlet.
 3. They were to continue their patient endurance and faithful work with steadfastness. If they ceased they would loose their special reward.

IV. TO THE OVERCOMER. V12

A. The special blessings.

1. "a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out."

Gal. 2:9, James, Cephas, John, "who seemed to be pillars" in the church at Jerusalem.

2. "and I will write upon him the name of my God."
3. "and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God."
4. "and I will write upon him my new name."

B. Names are placed on articles to denote ownership and possession and rights.

1. We belong to God.
2. We are rightful inhabitants of Jerusalem.
3. We will wear the "new" name.
 - a. new = kainos = newly made, not merely recent, but different from that which had been formerly; new, as coming in the place of a thing that was formerly, and as not yet used.
4. Isaiah 65:14-25, (v15).
5. God will be pleased to put His name on these people.

V. GOD'S PLEA TO BE HEARD. V13

- A. "He that hath an ear. Let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."