

Series: You Got Mail

Title: Philadelphia: The Favored Church

Text: (Rev 3:7-13)

Philadelphia, a city of Lydia, on the banks of the Cogamus River, about 28 miles from Sardis.

The term Philadelphia means "brotherly love."

I. Jesus Characterizes Himself specifically to the Church of Philadelphia:

7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; 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;

(Divine Essence)

"He that is holy:"

Sanctified Separated, No Polluted by Sin.

(Ps 145:17) *The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.*

The Holy One of Israel: Jesus is God

(Is 47:4) *As for our redeemer, the LORD of hosts is his name, the Holy One of Israel.*

(Ps 16:10) *For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.*

(Acts 3:14) *But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;*

(Divine Character)

"He that is true:" (Genuine)

(Deut 32:4) *He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.*

(Jn 14:6) **"I am the Truth:"**

He is the Only God there is:

(Is 45:5-6) *I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: 6 That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else.*

All other gods are devils stealing glory from God:

(Deut 32:17) *They sacrificed unto devils, not to God; to gods whom they knew not, to new gods that came newly up, whom your fathers feared not.*

He is TRUE - Genuine, not fake, false, or man made.

Since He is Perfect in what He IS, He is also perfect in what He DOES!

So God Is Always GOOD, & God is Always RIGHT!

“He that hath the key of David:”

Keys =Divine Authority: Messiah King!

Keys of Death & Hell

(Rev 1:18) *I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.*

Keys to the Bottomless Pit (Rev 20:1)

Key to the Thrown of David/Israel

(Is 22:22-23) *And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open. And I will fasten him as a nail in a sure place; and he shall be for a glorious throne to his father's house.*

Access To, Control Over the Thrown of David.
Legal Dominion over.

(Jer 30:9) *But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them.*

(Ezek 34:23-24) *And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd. 24*

And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David a prince among them; I the LORD have spoken it.

This is Jesus’ Royal Claim as Lord & head of David’s House.

Event hough Jesus has not YET come to take the Throne of David, He does HAVE all Royal Authority in Heaven & on Earth.

(1 Tim 6:14-15) *our Lord Jesus Christ: 15 Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;*

(Divine Sovereignty)

“He that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;”

(I am the Devine Blessor!)

(Ecc 7:13) *Consider the work of God: for who can make that straight, which he hath made crooked?*

II. Jesus Commends the Church of Philadelphia:

8 “I know thy works:”

God is saying this as a compliment:

(2 Cor 5:10) *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

It takes work to build a great church like Philadelphia. I believe in good preaching, good music, good children's programs.

But the "Work" They did was Evangelism.

(Acts 5:42) And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

God Works through people who make themselves available to Him:

Illus: Your greatest Ability is your Availability.

"God doesn't use me!"

"When do you make yourself available to God?"

"When your in the pew? Pew sitting is not Service."

"behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it:"

"I have opened the door of evangelism to you"

This is a ministry everyone CAN do.

COMMANDED to do.

Only YOU can shut this Door through Disobedience!

A Door = A Divine Opportunity:

(Acts 14:27) And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened "the door of faith unto the Gentiles."

The Opportunity for the Gentiles to Come to Faith in Christ.

(1 Cor 16:8-9) But I will tarry at Ephesus until Pentecost. 9 For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries.

A Divine Opportunity to Reach and Teach others.

(2 Cor 2:12-14) Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened unto me of the Lord, 13 I had no rest in my spirit, because I found not Titus my brother: but taking my leave of them, I went from thence into Macedonia. 14 Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.

A Divine Opportunity for us to make the knowledge of the savour manifest to Lost people in every place.

God has given this church a Divine Opportunity that they could not have created on their own.

We need God to open doors for us here in Kingstowne.

We can request A Divine Opportunity Through Intercessory Prayer:

(Col 4:2-3) *Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:*

You can help to create Divine Opportunities for the Gospel to be received by your neighbors as you pray for my Evangelistic work that I do each week.

I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it:

“FOR” = Because of 3 Reasons:

God promised to keep the “DOOR” Open to them.

“for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.”

“for (because) thou hast a little strength,” (Power)

Not great Wealth.

Not great Prominence in the city.

(James 2:5) *Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?*

(1 Cor 1:25) God uses the “Weak” things so so that God gets all the Glory.

(2 Cor 12:9-10) When we are Weak, God demonstrates Himself Strong for all to see.

“and (because thou) hast kept my word,”

(Obedience)

(John 14:23) *Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.*

Obedience Motivated by Love.

“and (because thou) hast not denied my name.”

(Testimony)

We Deny God when we disobey His Word

(Josh 24:27) *And Joshua said unto all the people, Behold, this stone shall be a witness unto us; for it hath heard all the words of the LORD which he spake unto us: it shall be therefore a witness unto you, lest ye deny your God.*

(2 Tim 2:12) *If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:*

(Titus 1:16) *They profess that they know God; **but in works they deny him**, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.*

God has extended these same Promises to FBCK!

1. Our Strength is in the Lord! (Ps 18:2) *The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my*

*God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler,
and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.*

2. If We Keep His Word:

Read It,
Internalize It
Obey It!

3. If we Don't Deny His Name:

If we will live our Faith.
If we testify of Him.
If we Give God the Glory.

III. Jesus Condemns the Church of Philadelphia:

Not One WORD!
Smyrna, the Persecuted Church.
The only other church that had no rebuke from Jesus.

IV. Jesus Councils the Church of Philadelphia:

*9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of
Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do
lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship
before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.*

The church here was facing fierce opposition from the
local Jewish population.

The Jews thought they were the Only True
Worshippers of God.

They had stopped worshipping and changed to
worshipping themselves

Those Jews will one day admit they were wrong and
know assuredly that they had come face to face with
the true Faith in you and had denied it and are now
paying the price of it.

The Phonies & Fakes, ETC.

The Compromisers who embraced the World to draw
a crowd.

When you witnessed on the Job and they laughed.
When you witnessed at School and the Bullies called
you Preacher Boy, Goody Goody, Holy Roller
They all thought you a Religious Nut.
I know it hurt at the moment.
BUT They will All kneel before you!
(Rom 14:11-12) *Every knee shall bow*
God will vindicate you As He did JOB!
He will Justify you as He did Lazarus to the Richman.
They will know that you were right!
God will set the whole World Straight!
“and to know that I have loved thee.”

*10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, 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.*

Who is speaking? Christ!

Who was He Speaking to? The Church at Philadelphia

“Because thou hast kept the word of my patience”

Because we endured the Tribulation of persecution.

Because they did not Charge God foolishly:

What is Christ is Promising?

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.

We will be spared The Great Tribulation!

(2 Pet 2:9) *The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:*

The Great Tribulation begins with the Rapture.
7 Seal Judgements, 7 Bowl, & 7 Trumpet Judgments.

11 Behold, I come quickly:

2nd Coming for His Saints.

“hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.”

Command to be Faithful.

Don't Backslide.

We are Commanded to Watch & Pray:

(Matt 26:41) *Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*

Crowns are symbol of Rewards.

(Rev 22:12) *And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.*

V. Jesus Challenges the Church of Philadelphia:

12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out:

They will have a permanent Home!

and I will write upon him the name of my God,
Establishing our Royal Identity to whom we belong.

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

(Is 62:2) *And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name.*

For those who have faithfully served their Lord in this life, Jesus evidently promised further special recognition then.

For a select group of faithful servants of God now, they in that day will have the privilege of having three exclusive names written upon them.

This is the emphasis throughout the New Testament.

These will be (1) the name of God,
(2) the name of the new Jerusalem, and
(3) Jesus' new name.

What that latter name is, we do not know. But it clearly will be a high reward to have these inscriptions in that day.

Pillars of Solomon's Temple: Boaz & Jachin.
Exhibited Permanency, Strength, & Beauty.
To be established in Honor, forever, in the very presence of God.

This is a reward for Faith & Faithfulness.

13 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

The challenge is to all churches everywhere across all time.

The admonition to take heed to what the Spirit saith to the churches is repeated.

The sevenfold mention of "the churches" points again to the local church and not some mysterious universal church.