

**Revelation 3:7-13**  
**What Jesus Says to the Church Part 2**  
**Philadelphia**  
**- Red Letters Series –**

**Lead with the story of Daniel**

A) Daniel would have fit in well with the Church of Philadelphia

B) Courageous group of followers of JC –

C) **The Faithful and Blessed Church**

1) Jesus has nothing bad to say about this church – only good.

“And to the angel (messenger – pastor) 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”: 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. 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. 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. 11 Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. 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.”

**This church was in a city that had endured a lot of tragedy {series of great earthquakes – shook their city – causing much destruction**

A) The Church was not immune to this tragedy – the quake that rocked their city – shook them as well.

B) **“Rains on Just and unjust.”**

1) Believers in Jesus Christ are not shielded from COVID, fires or from Economic crisis.

C) They were a church that was surrounded by the marks of tragedy and they were in a dark city

1) Satan’s throne was prevalent – But they stood strong – remained faithful

D) So in this city that had gone through so much – stood this vibrant group of believers in Jesus.

**Notice the way that Jesus reveals himself to this Church**

A) Jesus reveals himself to this church as – the one who is Holy

B) **Idea: he is altogether righteous in all his ways**

C) **The one who is true: Genuine – count on – Faithful**

C) **Those are two things that are great to be reminded of about Jesus when you are struggling**  
1) and going through a tough season – He is faithful and can be counted on to do what is right

**D) The one who has the Key of David**

1) What is that about ?

**The one who holds the Key OF DAVID. – speaks of HIS RESOURCES**

A) The reference To the Key of David is from Isaiah 22:20-25

B) In that passage THE KEY is given to a man named Eliakim– who is a Servant of King Hezekiah

C) Eliakim was sort of a chief of staff in Hezekiah’s kingdom –

1) he was given the key and the authority to open and shut the doors that led to the treasuries of the King

D) So by using this description - **Jesus was indicating that he is the one who has access to the Divine resources in God’s Kingdom**

**This is AWESOME – not only is Jesus faithful – we can trust in him**

A) He always does what is right – He is Holy

B) He is ready to supply us with Divine resources for whatever trial or opportunity is put before us

**Note: v.8 See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it;**

**What does this open door refer to? –**

A)The ministry of the Gospel

B)In Col.4: 3 Apostle Paul asked that the People in Collase would pray, *that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ,*

**Jesus is telling this church that – they have been given A Divine opportunity**

A)An open door to spread the gospel all over the region

B)What is interesting about that statement – the city of Philadelphia – was located on a trade route

1)They were considered to be an outpost for spreading the Greek culture into the surrounding regions

C)People traveling from all over the region were going to pass through their city – and learn from them Greek culture and ways

**Jesus is telling the church – the very thing that was a natural part of their culture –**

A)was this open door – for spreading the gospel

B)Travelers coming through Philly - could learn more than Greek culture –

1)But they could have a transforming encounter with the gospel of Jesus Christ!

**C)Their testimony, manner of life – and willingness to be used by the Lord – Daily open door**

**“Ministry takes place when divine resources meet human needs through loving channels to the glory of God.”** Wiersbe

D)God works in extraordinary ways – through very ordinary people and means

1)We just have to be willing and open

**I point this out because sometimes we can over complicate things when it comes to being a witness for Jesus.**

A)We live in an age of open doors – Digital age - Internet – send an email, post on Facebook or Instagram – YouTube

B)God’s word does not return void – We live in a crazy world that propagates – *criticalness and hopelessness*

C)We can be dispensers of Hope on a daily basis – by telling people about the Hope we have in Jesus  
1)HUGE OPEN DOOR

D)Have a car – you can bring people to church – open door

1)Guys the opportunities are endless

**E)Philly was a church with a Divine opportunity  
What made this church such a blessed church? –**

A)there are 4 things that we can learn from Philly – Blessed church – effective lives

**#1 They were a dependent Church - V.8 Little strength:**

B)**LITTLE** is Greek word ‘micros’, from which we get our English word Microscope, or microbe.

1) It means: small in quantity, small in number, and small in dignity. - That’s small!

C)**INSIGHT:** The reason that Jesus has opened this door of opportunity to them which no man could ever possibly shut

1) is because they were small in number, small in quantity, and small in dignity.

D)**Seems like a Paradox** – Our tendency is to think that Jesus is always looking for the Strongest & the most Gifted to use

1) But more often than not it’s just such weakness that Jesus wants to bless.

**He opens doors to those who realize – they need His strength.**

A)Those who know – they must depend on him!  
Never do this by myself

B)The Lord moves with Divine resources toward those who know that they need him –

**C)David – goes against Goliath – the strength of the Lord**

D)Or Gideon’s army of 300 defeated a Midianite army that numbered 135k

1)Elijah stood ALONE against 450 of the prophets of Baal.

E)After 3 years of public ministry Jesus had maybe 120 faithful disciples.

1) Yet those 120 turned the then known world upside down because they were a minority that had God on their side.

**Why does God love to take those of little strength and use them in great ways? Paul gives us insight in 2 Cor 4:7**

*But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.*

A)He gets the glory!

B)The Church in Philadelphia could be used powerfully by the Lord because they were dependent upon the Lord

C)Such weakness is what made them suitable to be instruments of His power.

**D)Our church CV – relatively unknown city – used in the last 29 years to help plant 33 churches all over the world.**

1)Help support countless ministries in our community and around the globe

E)Not because we are great – but because we believe that **GOD IS GREAT – nothing that is too big for him**

1)We have been a dependent church – stay that way – a group of people who know and believe – **without me..... nothing**

**So the first thing we see in V.8 is they were a dependent Church.**

A)God opens doors for those who know they need his strength

**#2 They were an obedient church – they kept the word!**

B)God opens doors for those who follow through.

C)Maybe you are saying: Pastor Rob – feel like I have hit a road block – no open doors

1)**Lacking guidance right now - God seems silent**

D)Whenever I feel that way – I look back in my journal –

1)What is the last thing that God told me to do?

**E)or the last area of life I needed to address – take care – DID I FOLLOW THRU?**

F)Sometimes the reason the door of opportunity is closed is the Lord is waiting for you to follow thru

1)ON what he told you to do last week, month -

(2 Chr 16:9 NLT) *The eyes of the LORD search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.*

**There is a lot of talk today in our culture about Revival – the need for Revival – are we on the verge.**

A)Precursor to Revivals in History – Obedience

“We must be willing to obey if we would know the true inner meaning of the teachings of Christ and the apostles. I believe this view prevailed in every revival that ever came to the church during her long history. Indeed a revived church may be distinguished from a dead one by the attitude of its members toward the truth. The dead church holds to the shell of truth without surrendering the will to it, while the church that wills to do God’s will is immediately blessed with a visitation of spiritual powers.”- Tozer

B)God responds in power and blessing when his people are walking in obedience to his word

1)They church was blessed because they Kept the word

C)So they were a dependent church / obedient church

**#3 They were a courageous church V.8 Not deny...**

A)He opens doors and is ready to provide resources to those who are willing to stand.

**B)Daniel story I opened with – He was a courageous young man – and God blessed him**

Bb)After that encounter with the Lord – Daniel led several of his classmates to faith in Christ

C)**Courage is Contagious!** – To Joshua – be strong and courageous

1)You follow in that way – the people will to!

D)You as a parent – your kids will be inspired!

E) Martyr's in Rome – Singing – people got out of the stands

So this church was blessed because they were a dependent Church, obedient church, courageous church

A) #4 They were a steadfast Church – V.9-10 -

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. 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.

B) In this city there was a strong Satanic presence – True in Every city

C) Here in Philly it was I think – Jesus ref to the synagogue of Satan –

D) Satanist fasting – the break up of Christian marriages

Good thing to remember = An open door doesn't mean an absence of opposition.

A) Attack comes with open doors - *“For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.”* 1 Corinthians 16:9

B) Good thing for us to remember – because we can think – open door = breeze – Smooth sailing

1) First hint of opposition – We want to quit or question – IS God really in this!

C) There is often opposition with open doors - why?

Why many adversaries? Satan hates to see believers who realize they have little strength – dependent

A) Walking in obedience – keeping the word – who are courageous- Who are steadfast

B) They are a threat - He knows they can do damage – so he tries to discourage them any way that he can.

1) Facing opposition? Hang in there – **God is on the verge of doing something great!**

C) The Lord opens doors for those who are patient and enduring!

Now before we close/ communion – Notice the exhortation that Jesus gives to that Church in V. 11 -Behold, I am coming quickly! (Understand the times you are living in) Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

A) Hold Fast – Be strong and prevail

B) You keep doing what you are doing- Stay the Course – don't give up

1) don't get distracted or frustrated

C) Don't get intimidated Hold Fast!

How? – Close Hebrews 12

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, (No unnecessary baggage) and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrew 12:1-2

A) Jesus endured the cross - We think of the word endure – we think - Barely getting by –

1) Endure a root canal – endure a visit from mother in law

B) Not the idea here: Endure is Hupomeno – it literally means to conquer –

C) Jesus was doing – He endured the cross –

1) Conquering sin and death –

D) He looked defeated from the Human perspective – naked – beaten – bloody – helpless

1) IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM – he was kicking butt – he was conquering

LOOK TO HIM – VERTICAL FOCUS - He is the author and the finisher of our faith

A) When can be victorious in our battles because Jesus has already won the war

B) We are more than conquerors through him who loved us! –

1) He conquered so we could be more than conquerors

**C) World changers – impact influencers**

**1)The rest of the world is freaking out – we are calm**

**D)We know how the story ends – Pray –**

**Communion – We are identifying in your Victory!  
Died and Rose**

**A)We can overcome – You overcame**

**B)Don't know Jesus - He took all the sin and shame – guilt – You set free**

**C)Open your heart**