

REVELATION WORD BY WORD STUDY 7 (3:7-13)

Introduction: Review the background of Revelation, the Church age. Now we are at the sixth Church of the seven, Philadelphia (brotherly love), some 28 miles from Sardis. Many say that Revelation is a closed book and it is out of bounds for the average Christian. It is NOT out of bounds for us. We are understanding it. Let us continue with our study.

v7 - Here is a great and amazing city. There was little imagination in naming cities in those days, they were always named after family members, etc. Alexander the Great built 18 cities and named all of them but one the name of "Alexandria." An earthquake destroyed Philadelphia in 17 A.D. but Tiberius rebuilt it hurriedly because the best vineyards in the world were there and he wanted his distilleries built as rapidly as possible. They still produce wine today. Philadelphia is the greatest of the seven Churches for it survived almost 14 centuries before the Turks destroyed it in 1387. the Church had great pillars supporting it and were still standing when the Turks got there. We will hear more about these pillars later.

- "angelos" - pastor - here we shall find another description of Jesus Christ.
- "holy" - Jesus Christ is perfect, sovereign, just and His character is complete holiness.
- "true" - Everything Jesus ever said is perfect doctrine. You and I will not be perfect here, but we can never go astray following Jesus Christ (we are to put on the nature of Jesus Christ).
- "key of David" - 2 Samuel 7:8, Isaiah 22:22 speak of an eternal King (his authority), one greater than David. Psalm 89:20-37 - a greater Son of David, this is Jesus Christ.
- "openeth" - final authority in the universe (Matthew 28:19). Many have tried to defeat Jesus Christ, even today (discuss) - "There is NO God!" doesn't make it so. "I see NO God" doesn't mean He isn't there, etc....there is no need to try to compromise with these people for Jesus Christ came PERIOD!
- "shuttest" - again, final authority, supreme authority. Some say there is no God, but NOBODY can shut the door, there is still worship, people will still worship God somehow, somewhere, even if it has to be in secret as it's being done today in some places.

China was closed to the worship of God, Jesus Christ, but millions did not bow to the laws forbidding worship of God and a new day has arrived for them and for all who at one time could not worship publicly.

v8 - "know works" - God always knows our works. Forever He will know our works.

- "open door" - actually a door opened by opportunity. The "door" is receiving the action.
- "have set" - have given. No missionary ever opened the door, ONLY GOD OPENS DOORS. It began in Jerusalem, moved to Antioch, then to Ephesus, then on to Philadelphia, then on to another and another. When our country (America) was founded it was by people wanting to worship God freely and so it will ever be. PEOPLE WILL WORSHIP GOD.
- "can shut it" - "dunamis" - no man has the dynamic power to shut it. Communism or any other non-God government or power is futile. Men can shake their fists at God, BUT IT IS GOD THAT OPENS THE DOORS.

God will always send somebody to anyone who is wanting to know about God and is willing to believe. God will not let anybody miss out on a chance to hear the Gospel. He will send YOU if not you, then your son or daughter, if not them, He will send your friends. God will send somebody at the right time and to the right place. THAT'S THE GRACE OF GOD.

JESUS NOW PAYS THE CHURCH A COMPLIMENT:

"has a little strength" - they were not depending on programs or themselves, they were not as popular or large as others, they depended upon God and God's strength. What makes a Church great?

Is it programs? Beautiful building? Only the GRACE OF GOD. What can our strength do? What can anybody in our Church family do? NOTHING to be great, we must depend completely upon God.

"hast kept My word" - guarded and obeyed - What made this Church of Philadelphia so strong? They had come to believe and then obey. They had kept God's word, they didn't give it up, they were doctrinally sound.

"not denied My Name" - This Church wasn't famous nor popular. It had not big name around the other Churches, BUT believed in God's Name. (The greatest increase in false Christ's and false religions in history began about this time.

THERE ARE FOUR DOORS MENTIONED IN REVELATION;

1. Here is the open door of service.
2. Revelation 3:20 is the open door of salvation and fellowship.
3. Revelation 4:1 is the open door of the Church in Heaven.
4. Revelation 19:11 is the open door in Heaven and Jesus Christ comes back the second time.

Paul gives three principles about the Open Doors:

1. When there are open doors, there are many adversaries.
2. The doors can be closed because people disobey, hesitate, afraid and worry. Are YOU worried?
3. Prayer opens doors, as does obedience and willingness.

v9 - This passage refers to Jesus.

- "will make" - will give

There are three kinds of Jews:

1. Racial, blood relatives to Abraham.
2. Religious, depending upon religion, Old Testament kind, still looking for the Messiah.
3. Regenerated, completed, believers in Jesus Christ, THIS IS THE REAL JEW.

There is NO real JEW outside of Jesus Christ and that is what Jesus means here.

- "synagogue" - the Jewish place of worship.

- "say are" - SAY, not any real Jews outside Jesus Christ. Abraham was a Gentile and Jesus touched him, he became a Jew. The word "Hebrew - Jew" means to "cross over" thus a believer. Isaac and Jacob believed. The heart of the Jewish nation is REGENERATION. Nobody is a real Jew outside of Jesus Christ.

- "make them to come" - There is coming a time when all Jews will believe in Jesus Christ. Every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is God.

v10 - IMPORTANT VERSE ON DOCTRINE (Tribulation Times)

- "because" - since

- "keep thee" - the Church will not go through the tribulation. The Church age ends and Jesus will take His Church out from the world. LOOK AT IT...READ IT...

When the coach tells a player to go in the game, but don't foul out, for if the player fouls out, he will have to come out of the game. The player knew what it meant to come out of the game. Our HEAVENLY coach tells that terrible times are coming (could very well be now, take a good look at what's going on around the world), yet the flood times (Noah) were far worse than now. Our heavenly coach tells us that just before these terrible times get here HE IS GOING TO TAKE US OUT, then will begin seven years of the worst times in history.

- "keep" the Greek means to take out, take out from the hour, the hour of tribulation, worst time in history. (2 Thessalonians 2:1-3) READ IT...The Thessalonians had false teachers telling them that they were in the Tribulation then. Paul had to write to them and explain that they would not be

here (there) when the Tribulation begins. THE CHURCH WILL NOT BE HERE WHEN THE TRIBULATION STARTS and when it does many Jews will be converted (over 144,000 will be Jewish evangelists). The Holy Spirit restrains Satan now, but when the Church is taken out, the Holy Spirit will also return to the Father and Satan will be loosed. When the world is almost destroyed, Jesus Christ will return and establish HIS rule again.

v11 - "no man take thy crown" - (Several crowns will be discussed later). Be true to God's Word and no man will be able to separate you from God. BE TRUE TO GOD'S WORD AND YOU WILL BE SAFE.

v12 - "the overcomer" - an earthquake destroyed Philadelphia, there were many earthquakes in that area. Engineers designed special pillars for the Church in Philadelphia with steel in them. They resisted the quakes and after quakes, ONLY the Church of Philadelphia stood. JESUS USES THIS PICTURE. Just like the Turks came in almost 14 centuries later and saw those pillars still standing, so will Jesus use you and me as pillars. Earthquakes of sin won't shake you down.

- "write my name" - God's name will be upon us (identified with Jesus Christ) and we will be entitled to enter heaven (remember the number 666)
- "city of God" - speaking of the New Testament
- "new name" - you and I (every believer) will have a new name. It will be in keeping with our character. Remember the nicknames Jesus gave His disciples?

v13 - The Church of Philadelphia didn't compromise God's Word and it stood for 14 centuries. HERE IS A LESSON FOR US - GOD'S WORD - GOD'S WORD - GOD'S WORD. Get into God's Word and bury yourself, pull God's Word up all around yourself....

This ends the study of the Church of Philadelphia, the Church of Brotherly Love.