

PHILADELPHIA: THE CHURCH
THAT IS FAITHFUL AND ALIVE

Rev. 3:7-13

INTRODUCTION: Have you ever seen a church that was truly alive and faithful to Christ? Have you ever seen a church that focused on missions, reaching and growing people for Christ? PHILADELPHIA was such a church. It is Christ's example for churches of all centuries to follow.

I. THE RECIPIENTS (v7)

1. The Pastor: He was instrumental in the church being so alive for Christ.
2. The Church: Situated strategically on the borders of three countries; its' name came from philos= love; adelphoi= brother; it was located over an earthquake fault; it was renamed "Neocaesarea" after being rebuilt following an earthquake; it had a Jewish synagogue that claimed to be the only way to God.

II. THE SPEAKER (v7)

1. Jesus, the Holy one (having the nature of God).
2. Jesus, the True one (genuine, authentic, real, original one)
3. Jesus, the Key of David (Isa. 22:22); The only one who can open or close the doors of Heaven.

III. THE COMMENDATION (v8)

1. The church was active in evangelism and missions even though small. (What is the purpose of the church? Is F.B.C. of Homestead strategically located for missions and evangelism?)
2. The church remained faithful to the Word of Christ, doing what He said.
3. The church remained true to Christ's Name, never denying Him.

IV. THE HOPE (v9-10)

1. Christ will vindicate the believers: some of their persecutors will be saved and worship with them; ALL of their persecutors will one day bow the knee to the name of JESUS.
2. Belivers shall be delivered to heaven BEFORE the tribulation.

V. THE COUNSEL (v11)

Jesus is coming soon - hold on, continue doing what Jesus commands...missions, evangelism, growing christians.

VI. THE PROMISE (v12,13)

1. They will become a permanent part of God's House (pillars).
2. They will have permanent safety forever.
3. They will be called the Children of God (belonging to God only).
4. They will be citizens of God's new city - Jerusalem.
5. They will be called by the Lord's SPECIAL name.

CONCLUSION:

1. Philadelphia received NO complaints from Chrsit.
2. Philadelphia is the example Christ wants ALL churches to follow.
3. WE are also strategically located for missions, evangelism, and growing christians.
4. Let us be like the church of Philadelphia:
 - be evangelistic, mission minded
 - be growers of christians
 - be faithful to Chrsit's Word
 - be faithful in living as Christ wants.