

THE LETTER TO THE PHILADELPHIA CHURCH (REVELATION 3: 7-13)

Like the previous letters to the churches, this letter represents **Christ's Report card** for this particular church. What we think of ourselves, what people think of us are not so significant, compared to what Christ thinks of us. What Christ thinks of us, is supremely significant!

There are 3 striking symbols used by Christ in this letter – **a door, key, & a pillar.**

#1 THE CHURCH & THE OPEN DOOR

**"Unless a man's faith saves him out of selfishness into service,
it will certainly never save him out of hell into heaven'**

- "I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept My Word & have not denied My Name" **Revelation 3:8**
- "Behold I will make those of the synagogue of Satan .. come and bow down before your feet, and learn that I have loved you" **3:9**
- "I will keep you from the hour of trial which is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell upon the earth" **3:10.**

Where Christ is concerned, neither the church's handicaps, neither present nor future opposition should silence us. Christ had commended the church earlier –

Christ was now saying, **"You have kept my word, now is the time to spread it!"**
"You have refused to deny My Name, now is the time to boldly proclaim it!"

#2 CHRIST & THE KEY OF DAVID

"The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David,
who opens and no one shall shut, who shuts and no one opens" **Revelation 3: 7**

Christ has the Master Key to all our missions & evangelism efforts!

The Master Key is the most important key in any house. Whoever holds this key can open all doors and shut all doors at any one time. Individual room keys are useless compared to the Master Key! The letter to the Philadelphian church was not addressed to an individual, nor to a handful of full time workers, nor to a few chosen ones. Christ had in mind the whole church. It was therefore to the whole church that the door was kept opened. Missions and evangelism ARE NOT supposed to be the pre-occupation of the "specialists".

#3 THE CONQUEROR AS A PILLAR IN GOD'S TEMPLE (CHRIST'S MOTIVATION TO HIS PEOPLE)

"I am coming soon .. hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.

He who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God; never shall he go out of it,
and 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 from my God out of heaven, and my own new Name.." **3: 11,12**

Why mention the 2nd Coming of Christ to the Philadelphia Church?

Why a pillar in God's Temple? "Him who overcomes, (conquers) I will make a pillar in the temple of My God"

In God's temple, pillars are immovable and unshakeable!

Never before in history do I see such Open Door for missions and evangelism worldwide. The time to be involved in missions is **NOW!** Will you start praying for yourself & for your church to be involved in missions? Will you start preparing yourself & your church for missions?