

## THE DRIPPINGS FROM THE APOCALYPSE

### THE PERSEVERING CHURCH WITH BROTHERLY LOVE

#### Revelation 3:7-13

Wednesday, August 31, 2022

#### Revelation 3:7-13

7 “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this: 8 ‘I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name. 9 Behold, I will cause *those* of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and *make them* know that I have loved you. 10 Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that *hour* which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. 11 I am coming quickly; hold fast to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. 12 He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; 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 out of heaven from My God, and My new name. 13 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’

1. The city was strategically as the point where 3 countries came together and was called the "Gateway to the East".

2. Philadelphia emerged into fame because of a major earthquake in AD17.

3. Smyrna and Philadelphia were the only two churches, out of seven, that received no complaint or criticism from the lord.

4. Faithful to the word of God and to Christ, the Philadelphia Church had:

- A. Right Doctrine
- B. Right Living
- C. Right Belief
- D. Right Behavior

5. Doctrine without Love is Legalism.

6. Love without Doctrine is Humanism.

- A. It's important what we believe.

7. The Philadelphia Church corresponds to a period in church history that began with the Reformation and continues to the very next day.

Continues to this very day. World Wide Revival.

8. It could be that we are in the final hours the Day of Grace.

9. Open doors, even if held open by Christ, do not guarantee the absence of opposition or persecution.

GOD OPENS DOORS AND GOD CLOSES DOORS.

10. The church at Philadelphia had little strength but big faith.

It was:

a. small but spiritual

b. weak but willing

c. feeble but faithful

HERE IS THE POINT>. Little strength in themselves. Big strength in God.

**2 Corinthians 12:9 “And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.”**

The true source of power is the Lord.

#### 11. Three Commendations

1. You do not rely upon your own strength.
2. You have kept my word.
3. You have not denied my name.

This church had many difficulties.

12. The "Hour of Trial" in verse 9 refers to the Great Tribulation, initiated by God and resulting in a terrible time for all unbelievers.

13. Others point out that the words "keep you from" can be interpreted in two ways:

- a. Keep you from the Hour of Trial (rapture)
- b. Keep you through the Hour of Trial

#### 14. Three Basic Views:

- a. Pre-tribulation: Raptured out before the tribulation.
- b. Mid-tribulation: Raptured out in the middle of the tribulation.
- c. Post-tribulation: Believers live through the tribulation and raptured with the Lord at the end.

15. Many view the Philadelphian Church as representing the Ideal church.

a. The open door symbolizes their great opportunity.

b. David represents Christ's sovereignty.

c. The Pillar depicts our security and stability.

d. The names reveals the assurance of our new nature and final destiny.

16. Church Growth Experts see 4 Characteristics in Vibrant Churches.

a. A door of opportunity opened by God.

b. A sense of their own powerlessness apart from Christ.

c. A commitment to the authoritative word of God.

d. Absolute doctrinal integrity.

- No church is perfect but Jesus had good things to say to this church.

HERE IS THE POINT > ONLY GOD IS PERFECT AND OUR GOAL IS TO BE LIKE HIM.