

Title: The Church of Brotherly Love *(The Potential of God's Church)*

Text: Revelation 3:7-13

*(Revel Rev 3:7-13)
Prayer*

I hope you As we have studied Christ's letters to the Seven Churches of Revelation, *Jesus* we have noticed that He "pulled no punches" in these messages. When

Jesus ~~saw~~ *came* sin He pointed it out, judged it and punished it. But as ~~He~~ *we* writes to the church at Philadelphia we see that His letter contains no

word of complaint. Jesus does not point out a single fault, a single sin *That's*

Yes, I don't believe this ~~This does not~~ mean that the church of Philadelphia was perfect. I believe

it ~~does~~ mean that their ministry was pretty powerful in comparison with the other churches of that day. The church stands because it was founded

upon a Rock, Christ Jesus. And because of Christ "The gates of hell can never prevail against the church." *And if 1st Baptist* ~~is~~ *our church* means anything to the

Kingdom of God, today, it is not because of our perfection and power, but because of the perfection and power of the Lord Jesus Christ, who lives in

and works through every true *Believer* ~~church~~. As we study of the Church of

Brotherly Love please notice ~~four characteristics~~; *First of all,*

1. ~~How Christ describes Himself~~
2. ~~The Open Door~~
3. ~~The Promise Made~~
4. ~~The Future Glory~~

I. THE DESCRIPTION OF CHRIST.

In verse 7 of Chapter 3 Christ says three things about himself.

1. First, He says that he is holy and true. This means that Jesus is right in His character and right in His conduct. ~~All through the Bible~~ *is* we see Jesus pictured as being Holy. This means that He had the character of God - that there was absolutely no sin in Christ. We live twenty centuries this side of *The Cross* ~~Christ~~ and as we examine *Jesus* him from this vantage point, we must say with Pilate, "I find no fault in him."

When character is right, conduct is right. As it was with Jesus so in a lesser way can it be with each of us. If we are right on the inside, we will be right on the outside. If character is right, conduct will be right. ^{and} There is only one way to make character right. We must not only invite Jesus in to be our Saviour, but we must give Him full command of our lives and Let Him reign as Lord in our hearts. *Have you done that?*

2. Jesus next says that He has the key of David. This means that Jesus has an official position. David was a great king of Israel, but here is one greater than David. Here is one who has all power in heaven and on earth. {When the angel told Mary about the birth of Jesus, he said that God would give to Him the throne of David, and His kingdom would have no end. And Jesus holds the keys to that kingdom. He has the key to the kingdom of Heaven - he opens the door for us when we trust Him as our Saviour. He has the key to the presence of God - He opens the door for us when we come to Him in prayer. He has the key to the Bible - He opens up its truth to us when we study in faith believing. He has the key to all the mysteries of life - someday he will open up the door and we will understand all things. He has the key to life's greatest happiness and he will open the door and flood our souls with joy if we walk with him and serve him in faithfulness.

3. ^{The Third} Jesus next declares that he is the one who opens and no man shuts, the One who shuts and no man opens. Satan tries through all kinds of ways to keep the door shut - to keep us from spreading the Gospel. Paul was having this problem and he prayed that God ~~would~~ would open the doors for the preaching of the Word. And God did open the doors and "the world was turned upside down." *God Will open The door For us in Christ, if We Want Him To!*

This shutting and opening means something else. ~~It is~~ ^{It's a} picture of activity. Christ is active in the world today. With all the problems

which face us - war , crime - ~~poverty~~, ~~race relationships~~ - taxes, we may wonder at times - where God is and what he is doing. But in the midst of all the strife of this world, God is moving toward the final order. One day, ~~before long~~, He will call a halt to the march of nations and take over himself.

I wonder why we
~~Why then should~~ Christians worry ~~themselves~~ *ourselves* sick about world conditions?

God is still on His throne. Christ still has the key. He is still opening and shutting doors. *He calls us* ~~We are~~ to put all of our trust in Him and go forward in faith, doing our best for Him, knowing that He will bring everything our all right in His own good time.

Now, Secondly, ~~THE OPEN DOOR~~ * ~~READ 1. 8~~

Jesus said ^{Vs 8} that He knew their works, and ~~evidently~~ because of their faithfulness He had opened a door of service for them. ~~We~~ don't know what that door was, but *I believe it had something to do with reaching the lost.* I believe they took advantage of this opportunity, went through the open door, and did the work that God wanted them to do. *Now, I believe God is opening a door in China* After World War II Japan presented an open door to all the Christians of the world. She was tired of war and was ripe for the Gospel. General Douglas MacArthur called upon the Christians of American to send thousands of missionaries to Japan. But, we sent fewer than one hundred, so we lost a great opportunity to win thousands of people for Christ.

John 15
Note I believe that if ~~a man~~ *we are* is faithful to Christ in ~~the~~ *These* smaller tasks, *visiting* God will open up larger avenues of service for ~~him~~ *us*. [Sometime ago a young man ~~had~~ said to me that he felt God had called him to preach the Gospel. Yet, I knew that He was not faithful to his committed as he indicated by his lack of attendance in Sunday School, the church or any other of his Christian obligations. Sometime later he said that he had been mistaken, and he sought other employment. *you see* God doesn't call a man to serve Him and open up doors of service for Him unless that man has already been faithful to Him in the day by day experiences of life.

and what is true about a person, is also true about a church.

In the fourth century a great scholar in Rome became a Christian. One day he went to a follower of Christ and whispered, "I am now a Christian." The man replied, "I will be convinced when I see you taking your place with other Christians in the Lord's House on the Lord's Day and faithfully witnessing for Jesus." And, it is true. God does not give spritmal power nor open doors of service for you unless you are definitely and faithfully lined up on H_is side. *willing to Commit yourself to the TASK that God has called you to do.*

Also note that Jesus didn't say that they were great. He said they had "a little power." But they were faithful to the opportunities God gave them. The greatest churches are not those with the finest buildings or the largest budgets, *or the Biggest memberships* but those who are faithful. *We are* ~~They~~ are to be faithful in preaching the Gospel, in teaching the Word, in giveing of ~~their~~ *our* money for *The ministry of Christ* ~~worldwide missions~~, in daily consecrated Christian living, in witnessing to people. Jesus doesn't reward us according to our greatness, but according to our faithfulness. A humble person who is in his place all the time for God will receive as great a reward as the man who preaches to thousands. Faithfulness is the deciding factor with God.

Practical, Not Pie

~~THE~~ THE PROMISES MADE (V. 9-10)

When a church is true to Christ, when it keeps the Word of God, when it honors His name and has entered into open doors of opporuntity and has faithfully served Him, What happens? *First of all* It usually makes some enemies and has some trouble.

In I¹ Timothy 3:12 Paul says that "all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." Paul was speaking out of his own ~~expereince~~ *experinece*. Before he became a Christian no one persecuted him. After he began to live a godly life ~~afflictions came from every side~~ *problem developed*. Now, you can be a nominal Christian, you can have your name on the church roll, and no one will ever bother you. But if you go all out for Christ, if you give up ~~yourself~~ *yourself* and let Christ have complete control of your life, ~~the~~

if you are out there in the Field witnessing

if you try to live a faithful life of service, you will hear from someone. Some sort of criticism will usually come your way.

So, these Christians at Philadelphia who were true to Christ had some enemies. Jesus said that these enemies belonged to the synagogue of Satan. These were probably Judaizers who were trying to corrupt the Gospel. ~~Now~~ ^{and} Jesus makes a wonderful promise ^{here}. He says, "I will make them come and bow down before you and they will come to know how much I love you." Here is real encouragement for every Christian. Those who made fun will someday be called upon for their denial.

Then Jesus ~~next~~ says, that because they have kept His Word he will keep them from the great trouble which is going to come upon the whole world.

Notice, please, that there are two "keeps" in this verse. They kept, now He will keep. They kept His word, now he will keep them from the hour of trial which is going on the whole world. Jesus is referring to the Great tribulation period. And those who have been faithful and have kept his word, will not enter into the great tribulation. Because Jesus will have take us out of the world in the Rapture.

(4) Then Finally, ~~is~~ THE FUTURE GLORY (v. 12-17)

Jesus concludes this letter to church at Philadelphia by saying that he is going to come again. He tells them that they must hold fast to their faith and let no person take their crown. They are to hold on to the power they had and continue the work they were doing. He wanted them to have a crown when He returned. And if they were not faithful servants they could lose their crown. ^[John 3:16] God promises everlasting life to those who trust Christ. But that is not all- there are crowns and rewards at the end of the way to those who have faithfully served Him.

Jesus next promises the faithful that he will be a pillar in the Temple of God. This speaks of stability, fellowship, and closeness with the Lord. This means heaven - heaven forever in the presence of the Lord.

Then He says that he will write upon them the name of God and the name of His city, New Jerusalem. In simple language I believe that this means when you become a Christian, God puts his identification tag upon you and marks you as a Son of God. So He says here in this letter, "These are my people. They have been faithful to my Word. They have held up my name to the ~~heaven~~ ^{Lord}. Therefor, they are mine.

What made the Philadelphia Christians diffeent from those around them? It was Christ within them. What will make us different from the world around us? It is Christ within the heart. ^{Christ, let me ask you} Will you dare to be different? Are you willing to be different for Christ's sake?

The ~~old~~ story is told of a man who lived a very sinful life. Then one day he met Jesus. His life was transformed and he became a new ^{Person} ~~creature~~ in Christ Jesus. He went to the court and told the judge that he wanted to change his name. The judge asked him why he wanted to change his aname. And the man replied, "I want to change my name because I have accepted Christ as my Saviour and I am no longer the same man that I was. I want to change my name to fit my new character." And it was done.

We have a new name, the name "Christian." Christ gave us this name. Are we living daily in accordance with that name?

→ "He who has an ear. let him hear what the Sprit says to the churches."

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The potential of This church is great, if we will become faithful -