



“To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. 8 I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. 9 I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. 10 Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth. 11 I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. 12 The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name. 13 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Rev 3:7-13 ESV

Summary

Revelation 3:7-13 is Jesus’ message to the church in Philadelphia, commending their faithfulness despite having little strength. He assures them that He has placed an open door before them—an opportunity for gospel impact and spiritual reward that no one can shut. This door is open because of their obedience and perseverance, not their power. Yet the message carries urgency: the door is open for now. What is now open will one day be shut by Jesus. He calls the church to hold fast, promising eternal security and honor to those who overcome.

7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.

Revelation 3:7 ESV

And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.

Isaiah 22:22 ESV

8 I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

Revelation 3:8 ESV

What happened back then?

Christ promised to reward the Philadelphian Church for treasuring His Word and Name.

Six Promised Rewards

He will open doors of salvation and ministry. (3:8)

“8...Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut...”

He will humble those who oppose the church. (3:9)

“9 Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet and they will learn that I have loved you.”

28 For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. 29 But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.

Romans 2:28-29 ESV

He will spare the church from a future time of global suffering. (3:10)

“10 Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.”

He will come soon. (3:11)

“11 I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.”

He will honor the church. (3:12a)

“12a The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it,”

He will reveal His new name and eternal home for the church (3:12b)

“12b 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.”

What is always true?

Christ rewards His people for treasuring His Word and Name.

13 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Revelation 3:12-13 ESV

“If you will now begin to talk to others about that which you love so well, you will be astonished to find how gladly they will receive it from you. You have been a receiver yourself until now, and that is well and good, but now that you have become filled, overflow to others, and let them receive of your joy.”

CH Spurgeon, *Commendation for the Steadfast*, <https://www.spurgeongems.org/sermon/chs1814.pdf>

So what must we do?

Share your Treasure while the door is open.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When have you been “locked out”?
2. What does the “key of David” open (v 7-8; see Isaiah 22:20-24; Mt. 16:19; 1 Cor. 16:9; Rev. 3:20 ; 4:1)?
3. How is this church able to persevere? Describe their enemies. How does their reward (v. 12) fit their faithfulness?
4. What open doors has Christ placed before you? How have you taken advantage of the pathways He’s made available to you?
5. What are some closed doors He’s placed in your career? In your social life? In your schooling? How have you responded to each of these closed doors?
6. In what ways are you like the Christians in Philadelphia? Unlike them? Why?

7. What is the Spirit saying to you now?
8. What is your take away from this week's passage?