

Revelation 3:7-13 – “The Church of the Open Door”

- I. **7 letters – 5 down, 2 to go...**
- Finally...Pergamum, Thyatira, & Sardis – just seemed to get worse & worse.
 - Pergamum – the “_____ on biblical teaching & even promoting licentiousness” church
 - Thyatira – the “allowing those with false teaching to lead truly saved down dangerous path” church.
 - Sardis – the “resting on reputation & filled with _____ not challenged to know Jesus” church.
 - Philadelphia – not perfect but a faithful, obedient and “nothing against you” church.
- II. **Revelation 3:7 – Church 6: Philadelphia? (Not PA!)**
- Uncertain how it came into existence – most assume it is somehow connected with Apostle Paul.
 - The city of “brotherly _____” named by a Pergamene king; named after his brother...
 - It’s next in the sequence – from Sardis – southeast ~ _____ miles...
 - Founded to be a city to spread Greek culture & language, it was also a strong fortress city...
 - Due to important roads (trade routes), it had successful industries (textiles, wine producing)
 - Best known possibly as city of many earthquakes & aftershocks (destroyed in A.D. ____ by one).
 - Had emperor worship to some degree & of course pagan worship but not a major focus...
- III. **Revelation 3:7 – The Speaker?**
- The most unique description of Jesus yet – none go back to chapter 1...
 - Holy/the holy One. OT describes _____ as holy. NT refers to Messiah as holy – wholly other...
 - True/the true One. He is the real deal, the genuine One – wholly trustworthy & reliable...
 - Next attribute(s) from _____ 22:22 – Shebna & Eliakim...
 - The One from line of David has power to determine who enters into the Messianic Kingdom
 - He has complete authority & the requisite power to do these things...
- IV. **Revelation 3:8: What Jesus Knows About Them...**
- First, Jesus encourage them – I have put before you an open door(?)...no one can shut!
 - They have little power – is this a negative comment? _____
 - They have kept His word – they were & are obedient to the word of Christ...
 - They have not denied His name – they were & are standing firm; they are loyal to Jesus...
 - Essentially – they _____ on Jesus!
- V. **Revelation 3:9: Promise Regarding Their Enemies**
- Enemies – Synagogue of Satan; those who say they are Jews but lie! _____
 - The Promise – Enemies will come & bow down at your feet & know that I have loved you.
 - Irony – OT passages: _____ bowing down before Israel & acknowledging God with them...
 - Unbelieving Jews & unbelieving Gentiles – no better off: one day all will bow the knee...
 - Some do see in this statement promise that some of these enemies will be saved...
- VI. **Revelation 3:10-11: More Promises (More Specific to Church)**
- Is this 2nd Coming language? It sure seems to be...(Not all in Christianity believe this)
 - Spared (kept out of or through) the hour of testing upon the whole world, who dwell on earth...
 - Jesus is coming quickly – hold fast what you have (keeping His word & loyal to Him)...crown.
- VII. **Revelation 3:12: To the Overcomers...3-fold promise**
- #1 & 2 – Pillar in temple, not go outside any longer: Permanence & stability of relationship with God.
 - #3 – Write 3 different names on him/her: of My God, of _____ of My God, of My new name!
 - Shows – you _____ to God; your citizenship in the new Jerusalem (Rev. 21:10ff)
 - Belong to Jesus & He will be known in all His glory! Imagine that...
- VIII. **Heed These Things: Lessons from the Church in Philadelphia (Open Door)...**
- As a church with little power, realize it’s about the _____ of the One we exalt!
 - We don’t have to be a big church if we serve a big Jesus! (Jesus is _____ – holy, true, keys...)
 - Faithful churches – keep Christ’s word & do not deny His name. Mini-church with mega-Christ...
 - Those who are His are forever His – no one is able to shut a door that He has opened!
 - Who are you? You belong to God, your citizenship is in heaven, will behold the _____ of Christ...