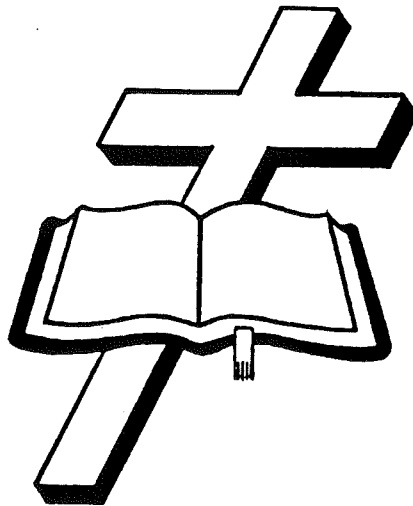


AN “OPEN” DOOR

Revelation 3:7-13



“HOLD FAST TO THE LORD”

- ◆ The Promise Of The Lord
- ◆ The Praise Of The Lord
- ◆ The Pillar Of The Lord

“Behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it, for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name” (Revelation 3:8)

Bill Kirk

“AN OPEN DOOR”

Text: Revelation 3:7-13

Subject: “An Open Door That No Man Can Close”

Introduction

1. This letter from Jesus was given to the believers in Philadelphia (and to us).
2. Philadelphia was located on the borders of Lydia, Mysia and Phrygia.
3. It was founded as a border town to spread Greek culture to surrounding areas.
4. It was a city where God planted a church that was #1 - alive and #2 - faithful.

Fact: Jesus had no rebuke or complaints against this church.

Fact: This local church lived for one purpose, to carry out the great commission of Jesus:

- #1. Reach the unreached (make insiders out of outsiders).
- #2. Make disciples (by teaching the Word on a consistent basis).

Question: Who is the author of this letter?

Answer: Jesus!

Question: Why should we listen to the words of Jesus?

(3 Reasons In V. 7)

- #1. Jesus is Holy (V. 7)
“These things saith He that is Holy” (V. 7) (Which means:)
 - ◆ Separate from all sin.
 - ◆ Free from all contamination.
 - ◆ Pure and without mixture.
 - ◆ Holy in character, purpose, motive and deed.
- #2. Jesus is True (V. 7)
“He that is true” (means:)
 - ◆ True as opposed to everything false.
 - ◆ Genuine as opposed to the counterfeit.
 - ◆ Worthy to be trusted and relied upon.
- #3. Jesus is The Holder of the Key of David
“..He that has the key of David” (v. 7)

Question: What does (v. 7) mean, that Jesus has the key of David?

Answer: This is reference to Isaiah 22:20-22

- ◆ The Lord summoned a man named Eliakim, who carried the keys to the royal palace in Jerusalem.
- ◆ Shebna (a treacherous leader) used his office for personal gain.
- ◆ God removed Shebna from office and Eliakim took his place.
- ◆ Eliakim (was a type of Christ) and had the keys of authority.
- ◆ No one could gain entrance into the palace except through Eliakim.
- ◆ Although Eliakim was a servant (the head usher to open and close all doors),
- ◆ All entrances were under his sovereign control.

Question: Pastor, what does this have to do with me?

Answer: Today, “Jesus has the key of David” means:

- ◆ Jesus alone grants us entrance into the presence of God.
- ◆ Jesus alone has the authority to say “come in”.
- ◆ Jesus alone allows us access to come to God for answered prayer (and daily communion).

(Why Listen Jesus?)

- #1. Jesus is Holy (flawless and sinless)
 - ◆ How many of you believe that Jesus is without fault?
- #2. Jesus is True (worthy to be trusted and relied upon).

- ◆ How many of you believe that you can trust all of your concerns to Jesus?
- #3. Jesus has the Key of David (or the authority to let us come into God's presence).
- ◆ How many of you are grateful to God that you have access to God through the work and merits and grace of Jesus?

(3 Revelations In Philadelphia)

I. The Promise Of The Lord

Question: What is the promise of Jesus to the believers in Philadelphia and in Binghamton?
(2 fold)

- #1. (V. 8) "I know thy works; behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it"

(2 Things Were Taking Place)

- #1. The church was alive and conscious of its purpose to evangelize (and)
- #2. The church encountered resistance, rejection and opposition.
 - ◆ It was strategically located in a town that touched three other towns. (Lydia, Mysia, and Phrygia) (the triple cities)
 - ◆ It was located on the imperial road of Rome (one of the major roads that passed from the coast to the east into Asia Minor). We have routes 81, 17 and 88 all intersecting as well.

(Note 2 things about this open door)

- #1. Jesus said, "I have set before you an open door"
- Question:** Who opened the door (or gave us the opportunity to reach the unsaved?)
- Answer:** It is Jesus!

(Remember)

- ◆ The Philadelphia church was strategically placed in Turkey.
- ◆ Businessmen, sales people, military people, tourists, relatives, visitors, merchants and local residents were everywhere.
- ◆ And the local church seized its opportunity and believed one thing.

"Now is the time for the favor of the Lord"

Question: What does Jesus do for the Christian who lives to see other people be saved?

Question: How does Jesus support those who put His interest first?
(V. 8) "For those who step in, and do God's will, and take advantage of the open door"

Question: What does Jesus say He will do?
(V. 8) "And no man can shut it"

Question: What does this mean, "No man can shut it"? (It means:)

- ◆ If we live for the purpose which He lives for (reach lost people)
- ◆ Then Jesus Himself is not going to let anyone close the door.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Jesus will personally support the believer and the church who is outsider sensitive.
- ◆ Jesus will personally guarantee success to the church that has its mind off of itself.
- ◆ Jesus will bend over backwards to perform the miraculous for those who have His interest at heart.

#1 - Not only will any attempt to hurt His church fail, (but)

#2 - (V. 9) - God will save the very ones that resist and oppose His work in you.

Read (V.9) "Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of satan, to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee". (Simply)

- ◆ There were Jews in Philadelphia who were antagonizing believers.
- ◆ They were serving the purposes of satan. (says Jesus)
- ◆ Some of you have endured grief and rejection to do God's will.

Question: What does Jesus promise you in (V.9)?

- ◆ Believers shall be vindicated before all persecutors. (And rewarded with joy) Why?
 - #1. Because Jesus promises that the very ones who oppose you will be saved, won to the Lord, and worship right alongside of you!!
 - #2. This promise in (v.9) applies to every church and believer that is alive and faithful.

Your Response Is The Key
(When resisted, rejected, criticized or opposed)

- #1. To die to the temptation of all retaliation.
- #2. To wait upon God to mete out justice deserved.
- #3. To forgive immediately and totally the Bible way.

Remember

- ◆ Forgiveness is an act of the will in which we chose not to hold someone in debt for the wrong they have done to us.
- ◆ Forgiveness is simply "letting go" of its power over me!

(Application)

- ◆ Some of you have been resisted by family, friends, employees, class mates, etc.
- ◆ Some of you find it hard to believe that certain people will one day be worshiping next to you.
- ◆ Some of you think it highly improbable that certain people in our triple cities will ever lift a holy hand to Jesus.

(But V. 9 says)

- ◆ Jesus delights making saints out of sinners and angels out of devils!!! (In other words)
- ◆ Satan's power has been superseded by God's power - if we (the church) will do God's will.
- ◆ You think doors are closing?
- ◆ Jesus said, "You don't have to politic or party or pressure to see God's will done"

Application

- ◆ Some of you are praying for an open door -

For a job	For a house	For a spouse	For a miracle
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(Jesus Says)

- ◆ Just do His will, and He will open every door you need opened! (Why?)

Because He holds the keys of authority to every locked door!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

II. The Praise Of The Lord

Question: What does Jesus praise the believers for in Philadelphia and in Binghamton?

- #1. When you use your strength for God's purposes
(V. 8) "For thou hast little strength" (which means:)
 - ◆ The believers were using the strength they had to go through the open doors.
 - Question:** Are you using your strength in serving God?
- #2. Jesus takes notice when you keep His Word
(V.8) "And hast kept my word" (means:)
 - ◆ There was obedience as the highest priority in Christian living.
 - Question:** Are you obeying God in every area of life and lifestyle?
- #3. Jesus takes notice when you stand under pressure
(V. 8B) "And hast not denied my name" (means:)
 - ◆ Boldness overcame compromise when tempted under pressure to sin.
 - Question:** Is there any questionable area of my life to address?
- #4. Jesus takes notice when you are patient
(V. 10) "Because thou hast kept the Word of My patience" (means:)

- ◆ Believers endured and remained faithful in spite of every sorrow, pain, trial, wound, dent, disappointment, temptation, etc:

(“Kept The Word Of My Patience”) Means:

- ◆ Nothing said or done had the power to divert the believer from doing what was right. (repeat)

(What Does Jesus Commend In You?)

- #1. Using your strength to go through open doors.
- #2. Obedience in every area of your life.
- #3. Standing up when under pressure to compromise.
- #4. Quiet patience (or endurance) when tempted to be detoured, delayed, distracted, disappointed or discouraged.

III. The Pillar Of The Lord

Question: What is the reward for overcoming in this life?

Question: What is the pay - back for going through the open doors God places before us?

(V. 12) “Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of God”

Question: What is a pillar in God’s temple?

Answer: This is the believer standing in the New Jerusalem with Jesus.

Fact: Every church needs pillars to secure new believers.

“And he shall go no more out” (means:)

- ◆ No longer exposed to the temptations and trials of this present life,
 - ◆ But permanent residence in the very presence of Jesus.
- (V. 12) “I will write upon you my new name” (means:)
- ◆ You will have identity with Jesus as an individual person.

Conclusion

Question: What is our responsibility in light of the promise of the Lord to the faithful?

(It Is Found In V. 11)

“Behold, I come quickly, hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown”

Question: What is it that is possible to lose?

Answer: “Thy crown”

Question: What is this crown?

Answer: It refers to the victory crown (or floral wreath) placed upon a contestant:

- ◆ It was symbolic of festive joy, a race completed and a conquest won.
- ◆ It was symbolic of a glorious commendation.

Question: What did Jesus say that will happen to some?

Answer: “**Hold fast to what you have**” (Why?)

“That no man take your crown”

#1. “**Hold fast**” (means) **that a slack hand will end up an empty hand.** (repeat)

#2. “That no man take your crown” (means)

- ◆ Some will **falter** and forfeit their crown
- ◆ Some will **surrender** their testimony to temptation.
- ◆ Some will let **anger, bitterness, resentments, unforgiveness, the blame game, a bad attitude, and compromise** steal their crown.

Question: Ever watch a lady walk through a crowd with a purse?

- ◆ The purse isn’t dangling from one finger tip,
- ◆ But all 5 fingers grasp the strap so not to have it taken.

Question: How many fingers are wrapped tightly around your spiritual disciplines?

Question: Have you loosened your grip on the things God says “**Hold Fast**” to?

Question: Is there any slackness that needs to be tightened up?

- #1. Jesus is coming in an hour we think not.
- #2. The devil will use anyone or anything to steal your crown.
- #3. But we are responsible to “**Hold Fast**” lest we lose out.