

An Open Door

Studies in Revelation: Letter to the Church at Philadelphia (Revelation 3:7-13)

Key Verse:

"I know thy works: 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 (KJV)

Consider:

- *Have you ever felt trapped or "shut in" by the circumstances or people in your life?*
- *Can you think of Biblical examples of people who trusted God to "make a way" in the midst of their crisis?*
- *What trials, conflicts, or impossible circumstances are you facing right now and how can you trust God to open doors you cannot open?*
- *What specific Scripture verses has God used to remind you of His goodness and greatness?*

I. Christ's Commendation to the Church (Revelation 3)

A. You have "a little strength"

- *Is your life characterized by dependence on God?*
- *How do you express your dependence on God in your daily walk?*

B. You have "kept My Word"

- *Are you sensitive and obedient to the promptings of the Holy Spirit? To the clear commands and principles of Scripture?*
- *In the decisions that you make, are you more concerned about what you want to do, or what God's will is in a situation?*

C. You have not "denied My name"

- *Are you ashamed of Jesus (Matt. 10:33)? In your verbal witness? In the testimony of your daily life?*
- *Can other people tell by watching you (i.e. your attitudes, your responses, your words, your actions) that you are a Christian (Rom. 12:2)?*
- *What concerns you most...your obedience to God or the rejection of others?*

NOTES

II. CHRIST'S PROMISES TO THE CHURCH

A. He honors those who honors Him.

- "Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee." (Revelation 3:9)
- "If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour." (John 12:26)

B. He will deliver them from the "hour of temptation."

- "Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth." (Revelation 3:10)
- "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen." (Matthew 6:13)

III. CHRIST'S EXHORTATION TO THE CHURCH: HOLD FAST!

"Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown." (Revelation 3:11)

- Stay true to God. Walk closely with Him. Don't give in to the fiery darts of the enemy (discouragement, despair, unbelief, fear, doubt, etc.). Eternal reward awaits you!
- "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation [trials or testing]: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him." (James 1:12).

IV. CHRIST'S REWARDS TO OVERCOMERS (REVELATION 3:12)

"Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, *which is* new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name." (Revelation 3:12)

A. I will make him a "pillar in the temple of My God"

- Pillars are a symbol of strength and security (Ex. "Jachin" & "Boaz" in Solomon's temple — 2Chron. 3:17). In the New Jerusalem, there will be no physical temple (Rev. 21:22). God the Father and Jesus Christ will be the temple, and faithful believers will be spiritual pillars in that temple. Believers who abide in Christ now will continue to experience the blessings of that abiding relationship in eternity!

B. I will "write on him My new name."

- In ancient times, the names of heroic men were inscribed on pillars.
- In a similar yet far more significant way, God designates overcomers as recipients of special honor.

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." (Revelation 3:13)