**Revelation Series February 23, 2020**

*The Church of Philadelphia – Revelation 3:7-13 – Church of Perseverance*

About Philadelphia

* Name means “brotherly love”
* A center for Roman commerce and trade because a major road went through the city
* It had very fertile soil and was used for grape / wine production
* The city was prone to earthquakes and was destroyed by one in 17 AD
* The citizens worshiped the Greek god Dionysus, the god of wine

Attributes of Christ Revelation 3:7

* “He who is holy”
	1. Holy = set apart by God and belonging to God
	2. John 6:68–69
	68 Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. 69 We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God.”
* “who is true”
	1. He is the very definition of truth
	2. John 14:6a
	“I am the way and the TRUTH and the life”
	3. He always speaks truth and brings forth truth
* “has the key of David”
	1. The Jews believed they held the keys to the kingdom of heaven
	2. Jesus demonstrates that it’s not Abraham’s descendants, but true followers of Christ who are the children of promise
* “who opens and no one will shut”
	1. He is the judge and He will ultimately decide on those who enter into the Kingdom of Heaven

Strengths of Church at Philadelphia Revelation 3:8-10

* **Effective ministry** was being done
	1. “I have given you an open door”
* Have been **faithful to Christ**
	1. “kept My word and have not denied My name”
* Will be **honored by many**
	1. “I will make them come and bow down”
	2. Their allegiance and fidelity to Christ will be known by their love for Him
* **Have persevered** and will be kept from time of testing
	1. Will be kept from the time of the Great Tribulation because the rapture will occur first (see 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17)

Promises to the Church of Philadelphia Revelation 3:11-13

* Christ could return **at any moment**
	1. “Behold I am coming quickly”
	2. Quickly means imminently but not necessarily immediately
	3. Once it happens, what follows will occur shortly thereafter
* Those who believe in Christ, are **secure** in their eternal life
	1. “pillar in the temple of My God”
	2. “he will not go out from it anymore”
	3. “I will write on him the name of My God”

Commands to the Church

* Continue to persevere **until Christ returns**
	1. “hold fast what you have so that no one will take your crown”
* Listen carefully to what Christ teaches and **follow it closely**
	1. “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches”

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Strengths of Church at Philadelphia Revelation 3:8-10

* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** was being done
	1. “I have given you an open door”
* Have been **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
	1. “kept My word and have not denied My name”
* Will be **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
	1. “I will make them come and bow down”
	2. Their allegiance and fidelity to Christ will be known by their love for Him
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