



THE BOOK OF REVELATION

THE PERSEVERING CHURCH

Introduction: Among the seven churches addressed in his epistles, Christ, through the Apostle John, commends the congregation in Philadelphia for their unwavering faithfulness. Like the church in Smyrna, the Philadelphians received no reprimand, earning them special commendation from Christ. Their diligence in keeping God's Word, their steadfast trust in the Savior, and their resolute devotion to His name marked them as a model church.

Jesus promised an enduring church in Matthew 16:18, declaring that the gates of hell would not prevail against it. This promise of perpetuity finds its embodiment in the Philadelphian congregation. Their vibrant missional focus and obedient spirit exemplify the characteristics of a church that fulfills Christ's prophetic words. As today's churches seek to navigate their challenges, emulating the faith and persevering actions of the Philadelphians becomes an essential blueprint for success.

CHRIST REVEALS HIMSELF (V. 7)

He is described as...

- ...holy.
- ...true.
- ...the One Who has *"the key of David."*
- ...the One Who has authority. He alone possesses the key, and He alone opens and closes doors of opportunity. *"...he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth."*

CHRIST'S BLESSINGS UPON THE CHURCH AT PHILADELPHIA (VS. 8-9)

Christ sets before them an open door...

- ...because they relied on Him. They, of themselves, *"had little strength."* (v 8)
- ...because they obeyed Him. They *"kept His Word."* (v 8)
- ...because they were devoted to His name. They *"hast not denied my name."* (v 8)
 - Q: How do Christians and churches deny Christ's name today?

Christ will esteem them because of their faithfulness...

- *"I will make them to come and worship before thy feet."* (v 9b)

Christ will declare His love for them...

- ...He will make them [of the *"synagogue of Satan"* -v 8] *"to know that I have loved thee."* (v. 9c)

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CHRIST'S PROMISES TO THE CHURCH AT PHILADELPHIA (V. 10)

Christ vows...

- ...that He will *"...keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world."*
 - This speaks of a future time—the Tribulation Period
 - This verifies the prophetic nature of these seven churches.

CHRIST'S WARNING TO THE CHURCH AT PHILADELPHIA (V. 11)

Christ warns...

- ...that He will return soon. *"Behold, I come quickly."*
- ...of the potential for losing their reward. *"...hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown."*

CHRIST'S PROMISES TO THE OVERCOMERS (V. 12)

Christ promises...

- ...a fixed position with Christ for eternity. *"...will I make a pillar in the temple of my God..."*
- ...dwelling in New Jerusalem. *"...and he shall go no more out..."*
- ...a new name—*His* name (Rev. 2:17; 19:12; 22:4)
- ...to identify them as part of His Bride (John 3:29; Rev. 21:9)

Lesson Conclusion: Through the Apostle John's letter, Christ declared an open door for the Philadelphian church, a symbol of limitless opportunity. Remarkably, this same door remains open for us today. Like those faithful believers, we are called to step boldly through, embracing the privilege of service, witnessing, and evangelism. By following their example, we can fulfill our divine mandate and make a lasting impact on the world."