

Series: What Jesus Knows About His Church

Today: "The Church in Philadelphia"

"The Faithful Church" # 6

Rev 3:7-13

3-13-16 Sun AM

Tonight we come to the 6th church at Philadelphia, the faithful and true missionary church that follows Christ. Oliver Greene says it is the church around 1750 onward and runs parallel with the apostate church of Laodicea. These two co-exist till Philadelphia is raptured and Laodicea is left behind.

Philadelphia is the faithful church who was faithful in the truth, in their testimony, and in trials. They were a small faithful church that was faithful to the Word and to Jesus.

TT: What did Jesus know about this church?

I. Jesus Knew Their Faithfulness [3:8-9].

1. Faithful Witness [vs. 7-8a]. "Open door"

Jesus has the Key of David, that is, Christ has the sovereign authority to control entrance into the kingdom. The keys represent salvation.

Isaiah 22:22, "And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open."

In Rev. 1:18 Jesus has the keys of death and hell [hades].

They had an open door to salvation, service, witnessing, outreach, and missions.

1 Cor 16:8-9, "But I will tarry at Ephesus until Pentecost. For a great door and effectual is opened to me, and there are many adversaries."

2 Cor 2:12, "Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened to me of the Lord."

Col 4:3, "Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am in bonds."

We miss many open doors because of indifference, selfishness, and worldliness. Many don't have open doors because they don't look for open doors.

2. Faithful Remnant [v. 8b]. "Little strength"

Christ is not saying they were weak, but small in number. Little is a lot when God is involved. We don't focus on our numbers, but our faithfulness to the Lord and His Word.

God does not work thru numbers or human ability. He works in a way that only he can get the glory.

3. Faithful Doctrine [v. 8c]. “Kept my word”

The faithful church is true to the Word of God. Today the Word is being replaced by philosophy, poverty programs, faith-based programs, health and wealth gospel, and a social club atmosphere.

God desires his church be obedient to His Word and exalt Jesus Christ.

4. Faithful Perseverance [vs. 8d-9]. “Not denied my name”

Matt. 10:22, “And you shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake.” They never denied his name (All that Christ is).

The synagogue of Satan is certain Jews who claimed to be of God but were not. They hated Christ and Christians so they harassed and persecuted the church.

We are not told how Jesus brought it about but these Jews wound up at the feet of that little church.

I. Jesus Knew Their Faithfulness [3:8-9].

II. Jesus Knew of Their Rapture [vs. 10-13].

vs. 10-11: These verses clearly teach the pre-tribulation rapture.

1. The Philadelphia is the true church raptured [v. 10a].
2. “From” is used and not “in” or “through.”
3. "Hour of temptation or trial" Speaks not of 60 minutes but a time period- the 7 year tribulation (Dan. 9:24-27; Rev. 6-19).
4. "Shall come" means it's yet future
5. "All the world" means the whole world not a section
6. "Dwell upon the earth [Earth dwellers]" Used several times in Rev 6-19 of those unbelievers left behind after the rapture.
7. This is the first mention of the rapture in Revelation [v. 11].
8. "I come quickly" means suddenly not soon. The imminent return to take His church out of the hour of trial (2 Thess. 2:1).

9. "Take thy crown" Not salvation but rewards.

Five possible crowns or rewards in heaven for serving Christ on earth- Incorruptible, rejoicing, righteousness, life, and glory.

Can I lose my crown? **Yes**. Can I lose God's salvation? **No**.

Col. 2:18, Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,

2 John 7-9, For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. (8) Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.

1 Cor. 3:15, "If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."

vs. 12-13: Promises to His people.

(1). "Overcomers" are believers and believers are overcomers

(2). "Pillar" speaks of eternal security in the presence of God.

(3). "Name of My God" speaks of ownership and intimate relationship and our identification with Him.

(4). "New Jerusalem" is the capital city of heaven and the final eternal abode of the people of God [Rev. 21:1-2].

(5). "New name" speaks of the name we will be given so we can know Him.