

## To the Church in Philadelphia Pt. 1

July 26, 2018

### Revelation 3:7-13 ESV

7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.

8 I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

9 Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie--behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you.

10 Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.

11 I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.

12 The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.

13 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

### Revelation 3:7 ESV

7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: 'The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.

- *God opens and shuts doors to constrain us within His will.*
- *Open and shut doors are manifestations of God's sovereign purposes and plans.*

*Psalm 139:1-5 NASB For the choir director. A Psalm of David.*

*1 O LORD, You have searched me and known me.*

*2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar.*

*3 You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways.*

*4 Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O LORD, You know it all.*

*5 You have enclosed (tsuwr - confine, secure, enclose) me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me.*

*Genesis 40:13-14 ESV*

*13 In three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your office, and you shall place Pharaoh's cup in his hand as formerly, when you were his cupbearer.*

*14 Only remember me, when it is well with you, and please do me the kindness to mention me to Pharaoh, and so get me out of this house.*

*Genesis 40:23 ESV*

*23 Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.*

Acts 14:27 ESV

27 And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.

1 Corinthians 16:8-9 ESV

8 But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost,

9 for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

2 Corinthians 2:12-13 ESV

12 When I came to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ, even though a door was opened for me in the Lord,

13 my spirit was not at rest because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I took leave of them and went on to Macedonia.

Acts 16:6-7 ESV

6 And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia.

7 And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.

1 Peter 1:1-2 ESV

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

2 Corinthians 10:12-16 ESV

12 Not that we dare to classify or compare ourselves with some of those who are commending themselves. But when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another, they are without understanding.

13 But we will not boast beyond limits, but will boast only with regard to the area of influence God assigned to us, to reach even to you.

14 For we are not overextending ourselves, as though we did not reach you. For we were the first to come all the way to you with the gospel of Christ.

15 We do not boast beyond limit in the labors of others. But our hope is that as your faith increases, our area of influence among you may be greatly enlarged,

16 so that we may preach the gospel in lands beyond you, without boasting of work already done in another's area of influence.

The dangers of comparison:

- jealousy
- covetousness
- competition

- discouragement
- DISTRACTION

*John 21:18-22 ESV*

18 Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go."

19 (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, "Follow me."

20 Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them, the one who also had leaned back against him during the supper and had said, "Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?"

21 When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about this man?"

22 Jesus said to him, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!"

*Philippians 4:10-13 ESV*

10 I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity.

11 Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.

12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.

13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

*If we don't learn how to be content in all circumstances, when the doors are shut and when they are open, we will grow bitter against God's plan and move outside of His will.*

**Revelation 3:7-13 ESV**

**8 I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power (dynamis - strength, work, power), and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.**

- Would God deliberately keep a Christian, a ministry or a church, enclosed about with weakness by circumstances or resources, for a greater purpose?

*2 Corinthians 12:7-10 ESV*

7 So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.

8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me.

9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

- *By all appearances, Philadelphia was a weak church, yet it was unstoppable because of the open door which God ordained.*
- *Though the Philadelphia church was weak, it was pure, receiving no rebuke or correction from Jesus.*
- *Which will we choose?*
  - *Would we rather be successful in man's eyes or pure in God's eyes? The two are rarely, if ever, compatible or simultaneous. We will have to forfeit one to gain the other.*
  - *Would we rather have great discernment and discipline such as the Ephesian church who left her first love?*
  - *Would we rather have the reputation of being alive and successful like the church in Sardis, yet be dead?*
  - *Would we rather be rich, in need of nothing, like the Laodicean church, yet be wretched, blind and naked?*

*Matthew 10:37-39 ESV*

*38 And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.*

*39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.*

*Are you willing to lose what appears to be the successful and prosperous life, to find your life in Jesus?*

*Are you willing to be failure in the world to be right with God?*

*1 Corinthians 1:26-29 ESV*

*26 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.*

*27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;*

*28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are,*

*29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.*