

THE FAITHFUL CHURCH: PHILADELPHIA – REV. 3:7-13

SERIES: *WHAT WOULD JESUS SAY TO OUR CHURCH?*

²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; ²⁴ and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near. **Hebrews 10:23-25 (NASB)**

➤ NEWSFLASH: *THERE ARE NO _____ CHURCHES!*

1. PHILADELPHIA: THE CITY AND THE CHURCH

- Founded less than 200 years B.C.
- Named for Attalus II, king of Pergamum whose love and loyalty to his brother earned him the nickname Philadelphus = “brother lover.”
- The city was rich in agriculture, but it was prone to volatile seismic activity.
- It was home to a temple built in honor of Roman emperor Tiberius.
- Scripture says little about the church in Philadelphia, likely founded during Paul’s ministry in Ephesus. It was a faithful, little church.
- Tradition tells us that some from Philadelphia were martyred in Smyrna along with Polycarp.
- The church maintained a presence in Philadelphia for many centuries. It disappeared in the 14th century long after Islam’s influence dominated the region.
- Only the church at Philadelphia as well as the church at Smyrna received no condemnation or rebuke from Christ in Revelation 2-3.

2. THE HOLINESS AND _____ OF CHRIST

⁷ "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this: **Revelation 3:7 (NASB)**

²² I will also praise You with a harp, *Even* Your truth, O my God; To You I will sing praises with the lyre, O Holy One of Israel. **Psalms 71:22 (NASB)**

²² "Then I will set the key of the house of David on his shoulder, When he opens no one will shut, When he shuts no one will open. **Isaiah 22:22 (NASB)**

¹⁷ When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, **Revelation 1:17 (NASB)**

3. FOUR QUALITIES OF A _____ CHURCH

⁸ 'I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

Revelation 3:8 (NASB)

- A. Faithfulness
- B. Obedience
- C. Loyalty
- D. Endurance

4. CHRIST’S COMMITMENT TO _____

⁷ "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this: ⁸ 'I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name. **Revelation 3:7-8 (NASB)**

⁹ 'Behold, I will cause *those* of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and *make them* know that I have loved you. **Revelation 3:9 (NASB)**

5. _____ FOR THE WHOLE CHURCH

¹⁰ 'Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that *hour* which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. ¹¹ 'I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown. **Revelation 3:10-11 (NASB)**

⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 (NASB)

6. THE CROWN AND THE PILLAR

¹¹ 'I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown. ¹² 'He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; 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 out of heaven from My God, and My new name.

Revelation 3:11-12 (NASB)

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

Revelation 3:13 (NASB)