

## **THE CHURCH AT PHILADELPHIA**

**Rev. 3: 7 – 12**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

- 1. Twenty-eight miles southeast of Sardis lay the city of Philadelphia.**
- 2. As cities went, it was not a very ancient city.**
- 3. The city was founded by ATTALUS THE SECOND in 140 B. C.**
- 4. Attalus was called Philadelphos, and the city was called after him.**
- 5. Philadelphia stood at the place where the borders of three countries met: Mysia, Lydia, and Phrygia.**
- 6. Because of its position, Philadelphia was the gateway to the east.**
- 7. Philadelphia commanded one of the greatest highways in the world, the highway which led from Europe to the east.**
- 8. The gateway from one continent to another.**
- 9. Philadelphia lay on the edge of a great volcanic area.**
  - (1) In one way this brought prosperity.**
    - A. This great plain was one of the most fertile areas in the world.**
    - B. A great grape-growing area.**
    - C. An area rich in hot springs.**
    - D. It was a center to which the infirm came to bathe in the waters.**
  - (2) But, the very fact which brought prosperity also brought danger.**
    - A. Philadelphia was subject to earthquakes.**
    - B. When these quakes came, the people would flee the city to open country; when the quakes were over, they would come back to the city.**
- 10. Philadelphia was a famous center of heathen worship.**
  - (1) It had many temples to heathen gods.**

**Rev. 3:12**

**(2) Philadelphia had a custom which concerned these temples.**

**(3) When a man had served the state well, a pillar was erected in one of the temples with his name on it. Rev. 3: 12**

## **I. THE DESCRIPTION OF THE SPEAKER verse 7**

**1. “HOLY” – Separated from all evil. Acts 2:27 “Holy one” ;Heb. 7:26 “Who is holy”**

**2. “TRUE” – genuine, real.**

**3. He is holy and true in CONTRAST with the wicked and non-genuine.**

**4. “HAS THE KEY OF DAVID” – Is. 22:22**

**(1) The key is the symbol of power.**

**(2) Today He has all power. Matt. 28:18**

**(3) He is reigning NOW, on David’s throne. I Cor. 15: 23 – 25; Acts 2: 29 – 35**

**5. “HE THAT OPENETH, AND NO MAN SHUTTETH” verse 7**

**(1) This power and authority belongs exclusively to Christ and is shared with no individual or organization on this earth.**

**(2) No one can usurp this authority without sinning. II Thess. 2: 3 – 7**

**(3) Christians must recognize His authority alone. Eph. 1: 22 – 23**

## **II. A CHURCH WITH “AN OPEN DOOR”. Verse 8**

**1. The “OPEN DOOR” is a symbol of the great opportunity before the church in Philadelphia to preach the gospel. I Cor. 16:9; II Cor. 2:12; Col. 4:3**

**2. Before them was a door of usefulness in the kingdom of Christ.**

**3. No man could close this door of opportunity – the Adversaries could not.**

**4. We today have an open door of opportunity.**

**(1) The door of self-improvement – Bible study, church attendance.**

**(2) The door of opportunity to convert others.**

**(3) The door of prayer.**

**(4) The door to use our money and time.**

### **III. A CHURCH WITH “A LITTLE POWER”.**

**1. This church, no doubt, was small and without abundant resources.**

**2. They were great in the Lord’s sight.**

**3. God can perform wonders with little things.**

**(1) I Cor. 1: 25 – 29**

**(2) David’s sling and stone. I Sam. 17: 49**

**4. We all need to learn that “the battle is the Lord’s”... I Sam. 17: 47**

### **IV. A CHURCH WITH HEAVEN’S COMMENDATION verse 8**

**1. “HAS KEPT MY WORD”... verse 8**

**(1) They patiently endured during opposition and persecution. V. 10**

**2. “HAS NOT DENIED MY NAME”...verse 8**

**(1) Matt. 10: 32 – 33**

### **V. A CHURCH WITH FUTURE REWARDS.**

**1. Ultimate triumph over enemies or foes – verse 9**

**2. Divine protection promised – verse 10**

**3. Admonition – verse 11**

**4. Promised reward – verse 12**

**(1) “Pillar in the temple” – Blessed in God’s service and exalted.**

**(2) “Write upon him in the name of my God”... It signifies identity and Divine recognition.**

**(3) Identified with “New Jerusalem” or the church of the living God – Accepted as one of the redeemed throng.**

**(4) “My new name”... Christ will claim the faithful before the Father**