

Revelation 3:7-13 <sup>7</sup> “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. <sup>8</sup> “ ‘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. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’

## ❖ Introduction

- **A lot of information to cover in this letter**
  - A lot of mystery surrounding what Jesus is saying in these verses...
  - Have to look throughout the Bible to understand the meaning of this text
    - You do this in an effort to Rightly Divide the Word of truth
- **Recap of Ch. 1 and first 5 Churches**
- **Preview of this Passage**
  - **3 main Sections (Have you noticed a theme with these letters? All about Jesus!)**
    - 1) Jesus Is
    - 2) Jesus is Pleased With
    - 3) Jesus Will
- **Last Week**
  - Jesus is: The Holy One
  - Jesus is: The True One
  - Jesus is: The Entrance into Heaven and Eternal Rewards
  - Jesus is: The Final Authority

## II. Jesus is Pleased With

<sup>8</sup> “ ‘I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut.

### ❖ 1) Jesus is Pleased With: Their Works

- **Their Works**
  - **1) Our Works are Important**
    - Paul and James’ take on works
    - **Ephesians 2:10 <sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.**
      - We ought to be doing good works...
    - **Through Ezekiel God says**
      - He will cause us to walk in His way and be careful to obey His statutes...
      - God will work through His children...
  - **2) God Sees our Works**
    - We know very well.. or should.... We will be rewarded because of them
    - **Heard people say:**
      - ◆ Ill just be glad to get there... don’t want know rewards... ill be happy as long as I get there
      - ◆ With nothing to show!
      - ◆ For being Ransomed by His blood....

- ◆ That is embarrassing....
  - And probably an attitude of someone who is deceived into thinking they have eternal life
- **Application**
  - How often do we see something that needs to be done...
    - ◆ Yet we just complain it isn't getting done...
    - ◆ Why not just do it...
- **THEREFORE: Behold (An Open door no one is able to shut)**
  - **1) A door opened into the kingdom that they are able to enter into eternal life**
    - No one can hinder this from happening
  - **2) An evangelistic door**
    - Jesus has allowed this church to see fruit in its Witnessing endeavors...
    - There is an open door for the gospel...
- **“Open a door” – a phrase in the Bible meaning Evangelistic success**
  - they get the opportunity to tell people about Jesus... and they will see great results
  - Acts 14:27 <sup>27</sup> 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 16:9 <sup>9</sup> for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.
  - Colossians 4:3 <sup>3</sup> At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—
- **No one gets into the Kingdom unless Jesus opens a door for them**
  - The Father must Draw them
  - Jesus is the only way
  - Final Authority (open and shuts)
  - Entrance into Heaven (key of David)
- **Application**
  - Must always Remember our workings for Him are:
    - Dependant on Him
    - He deserves the glory
    - **There are times we work and strive and there is no movement**
      - ◆ Isaiah and Jeremiah preached for years with almost no success at turning people to God
      - ◆ Missionaries toil for years at times before seeing movement
    - **There are times when there is much movement...**
      - ◆ Times when God just opens up the doors to heaven and many come through

<sup>8</sup>...I know that you have but little power,

## ❖ 2) Jesus Is Pleased With: A little Power

- **A little Power**
  - Dunamai – the word that we get our word dynamite from...
  - Translated as power, or might, or strength or mighty work,
  - **GOOD STUFF:** Defined: inherent power, power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature
    - By their nature as believers... and because of their faithfulness... they had power...
- **The Word is in the - Middle or passive voice...**
  - Almost as if to say...
    - The power is coming from somewhere else...

- But also from them
- **The little power of the Philadelphian Church**
  - Almost all commentators agree this in regards to their small size
    - That although they were probably small in number
    - Probably has small economic means...
  - They still had power
    - Not a big group.... But had fruit
- **Power from the Spirit of God ( I am certain this is what He has in mind here)**
  - Acts 1:8 <sup>8</sup> **But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."**
- **Their Power showed in their ability to reach people for Christ**
  - This is assumed from the text here... in regards to
    - The open door
    - And the Jewish people that would get saved...
- **Application: How do you get this power**
  - Faithfulness... they had it because they were faithful

<sup>8</sup>.....and yet you have kept my word

### ❖ 3) Jesus Is Pleased With: Keeping His Word

- **He is so pleased with them**
  - He is bragging about them over this.
- **Knowledge of God's Word means nothing without it being kept...**
  - In God's eyes, knowledge is nothing...
  - Only the keeping
  - **Romans 2:21-24 <sup>21</sup> you then who teach others, do you not teach yourself? While you preach against stealing, do you steal? <sup>22</sup> You who say that one must not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? <sup>23</sup> You who boast in the law dishonor God by breaking the law. <sup>24</sup> For, as it is written, "The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you."**
  - He says before:
    - **Romans 2:13 <sup>13</sup> For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified.**
- **Obedience to His Word shows we love Him...**
  - **John 14:21 <sup>21</sup> Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."**
- **Application**
  - Which one are you? One with knowledge and no action...
  - Or one who acts upon what He hears...

<sup>8</sup>.....and have not denied my name.

### ❖ 4) Jesus is Pleased With: Not Denying His Name

- **Deny**
  - To say no to
  - To act like you don't know someone.... Wow

- Luke 12:8-9 <sup>8</sup> “And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God, <sup>9</sup> but the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God.
  - Act like they know Him
  - As opposed to acting like they are not His...
- **Endearing Quality of this Church: Acknowledging Christ before men**
  - Lots of persecution around them.... Yet they remained faithful
- **Jesus will identify Himself with them**
  - In His rewards you see this...
- **Application**
  - In the real world... at home, with family, at school, at work, at restaurant, at the game
  - Do you act like you know Jesus? Simple question

<sup>10</sup> Because you have kept my word about patient endurance,

### ❖ 5) Jesus Is Pleased With: Patient Endurance

- **Doctrine: Endurance of the Saints....**
- **Endurance:**
  - I used to run... a lot...
  - In high School I ran the 2 mile... (didn't set an records)
  - A race of endurance... the sprints were not so bad... but this race was tough...
  - 16 laps around the track.... And your running more than ¾ your fastest speed...
  - 1<sup>st</sup> 2 laps aren't so bad..... but the next 14 are...
  - So quitting enters the mind at about lap 3.... And you wonder if you can keep up this pace...
  - Not to mention you are racing other people as well.... So you can not slow down
    - You just have to endure the pain
    - Endure the desire to quit
    - Endure the loss of fluid from your body
    - Endure the heat and exhaustion
- **Perseverance of the Saints...**
  - **IT is a doctrine in the Bible, that those who are His will indeed Persevere until the End**
    - John 15:5-6 <sup>5</sup> I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.
  - **True Christians will NEVER turn away from the Faith...**
    - False believers will
      - ◆ 1 John 2:19 <sup>19</sup> They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.
    - Perseverance is a test to show you are truly His!
- **Example of Jesus**
  - In His Humanity... He asked God to take the cup of suffering from Him, but was willing to Endure
  - The embarrassment, mockery, sufferings and death
- **We must persevere**
  - Through the pain... through the tough times... fighting our sin...

## III. Jesus Will

<sup>9</sup> 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.

### ❖ 1) Jesus Will: Use them and Humble their Enemies

#### ➤ The synagogue of Satan...

##### ▪ 1 Who they were and who they thought they were

- The true Jew (or child of God) is not one outwardly...
  - ◆ Romans 2:28-29 <sup>28</sup> For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. <sup>29</sup> But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.

##### ▪ 2 What they were doing

#### ➤ Evangelistic success

- Many saved

#### ➤ Vindication

- Many will be humbled before true believers

#### ➤ Application

- Hard for us to understand this with our limited persecution
- But God will allow you to bring people to Him.... People that oppose you and Him...
- If you remain faithful...
- In the end, if they still reject... He will prove you before them... to have been right!

#### ➤ 1 Peter 2:12 <sup>12</sup> Keep your conduct among the Gentiles (unbelievers) honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

- Your Witness will bring those who oppose Christ... to Him... and that is our goal...

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

### ❖ 2) Jesus Will: Keep Some From Tribulation

#### ➤ Don't have time to get real deep into this.... I wish I did...

- There is one question after another would have to be answered... would take at least 2 sermons

#### ➤ Because of their Faithfulness Jesus was going to keep them from a coming trial

#### ➤ The hour of trial

- It is a time in the future of great trouble
- It is coming to try "those who dwell on the earth"
  - That is a phrase describing unbelievers.... "those we dwell on the earth"
- It is very clear that Jesus is speaking of that great and terrible day of the Lord...
  - That He is about to describe in great detail in the coming chapters of Revelation
  - God will pour out His wrath on the Earth...
    - ◆ To hopefully cause people to repent
    - ◆ To also show His displeasure with how they have rebelled against Him

#### ➤ He promises to keep this Faithful church from this hour...

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

### ❖ 3) Jesus Will: Be Coming Soon

#### ➤ Revelation 22:20 <sup>20</sup> He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."

- ....Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

- Romans 13:11 <sup>11</sup> Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.
- **There is a day coming.... You may think it slow in its arrival...**
  - We are almost 2000 years closer today than when this was written....
    - 2 Peter 3:9-10 <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. <sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.
- **If all the O.T. prophecies concerning His first coming were 100% accurate... as they were...**
  - Wouldn't you assume His second coming is a certainty as well...
- **I do not know when...**
  - I believe it is close... not going to get into why I think that right now...
  - But scriptures seem to indicate it is coming to a head here soon...
  - We have had 2000 years of waiting...
  - He will indeed not wait forever

<sup>12</sup>The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it

#### ❖ 4) Jesus Will: Make us Pillars in the Temple of God

- **The last 4 are all speaking of the same thing, just in different ways with different nuances**
  - Pillars, name of God, city of God, Jesus' new name
  - We are His, and we will gain eternal life
- **The One who Conquers :**
  - He that believes that Jesus is the Son of God... is truly saved
- **Pillar in the temple of my God**
  - Pillar: A memorial... He will be a lasting memorial... not His memory, But He will be
- **There is no temple... only God...**
  - Revelation 21:22 <sup>22</sup> And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.
  - **We will be placed in God...**
    - And never shall he go out of it...
    - We will always be kept in God

<sup>12</sup>...and I will write on him the name of my God,

#### ❖ 5) Jesus Will: Write on us the name of God

- Example: Writing our name on stuff
  - Larry Dean Dixon
  - Cups
  - Kids go to school
  - Our Cars
- **Jesus is identifying us as His... He is proud of us**
  - We don't tend to write our name on what we are not proud of
  - Jesus is saying to all of creations....
    - These are mine....
    - I love them... I claim them... I bought them... I redeemed them... they are important to me

<sup>12</sup>...and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven,

❖ **6) Jesus Will: Write on us the name of the City of God**

- Identified with the city of God
- Denotes Citizenship

<sup>12</sup>...and my own new name.

❖ **7) Jesus Will: Write on us His New Name**

- A special nuance.... His own new name...
- **Jesus name and names identify Him and what He is like**
  - Throughout the Bible we come to know more about His nature through His titles and names
  - Jesus – Savior
  - Emmanuel – God with Us
  - King of Kings
  - Lord of Lords
  - Redeemer
  - Faithful Witness
  - Lamb of God
- **He has a new name...**
  - and I am sure it will reveal a part of His character and attributes we don't know now
  - But it will be written on us...
  - And we will be identified with Him and who He is...
  - And we will share in His glory
    - Ephesians 2:5-7 <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
- **Like Him**
  - 1 John 3:2 <sup>2</sup> Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.
- **Remember:**
  - **One of the main Characteristics of this Church was:**
    - They had not denied His name...

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

❖ Invitation