

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

- **God willing: Going to Teach and Preach today... as I try always... but listen to the teachings**
- **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
- **The City of Philadelphia**
  - **Then – named this Because of a king name Philadelphia....**
    - He was named this because of his intense love for his own brother...
    - The Word means brotherly love...
    - This city is located in an area with intense earthquakes...
      - ◆ They would often have earthquakes and would have to rebuild their city...
      - ◆ The earthquake that destroyed much of Sardis, our previous city church... also brought great havoc to this city...
  - **Now**
    - This place still exists to this day...
- **This Church:**
  - Jesus is pleased with them, and He offers no rebuke to them, only encouragement

## I. Jesus Is

<sup>7</sup>...The words of the holy one,

### ❖ 1) Jesus Is: The Holy One (heavy stuff.... Must stay tuned in... paying close attention, lots of scripture)

- **The Holy One:**
  - Jesus calls Himself the Holy One.... A name Reserved for God alone....
    - ◆ In the O.T. the title “The Holy One” is used approximately 43 times in reference to God
    - ◆ Holiness is something totally unique of God.... This is His Most significant attribute
- **In the O.T. we are introduced to God....**
  - **We are introduced to Him through prophets and angels**
  - **Isaiah 43:15 <sup>15</sup> I am the LORD, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King.”**
    - ◆ God is speaking here....
  - **Isaiah 40:25,26,28 <sup>25</sup> To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. <sup>26</sup> Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name, by the greatness of his might, and because he is strong in power not one is missing.... <sup>28</sup> Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.**

◆ **In Romans Paul says of God**

- **Romans 11:33<sup>33</sup> Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!**
  - The context here has Paul speaking interchangeably of Jesus and the Father here

◆ **Speaking of Jesus... Paul writes in Colossians**

- **Colossians 1:16<sup>16</sup> For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.**
  - Created **by** Him, through Him and for Him...

▪ **In the N.T. God introduces us to Himself by becoming a man**

• **The Opening verse of the book of John says....**

◆ **God became flesh....**

- **John 1.1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God**
- **John 1.14 “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us**

• **In Hebrews 1.2 God “In these last days has spoken to us through His Son”**

▪ **Jesus says here in His letter... I am the Holy One....**

➤ **What God Promises to do in the O.T. portion of the Bible.... (WE ALSO SEE THIS)**

▪ **We see Jesus doing this in the New Testament**

- This is most significant
- We see it clearly in Revelation....
- His restoring what is right, and ridding the world of the evil it has magnified

➤ **Application and Doctrine: How can people become Holy Ones?**

▪ **1) Throughout the Bible we see that only that which God has declared or set apart as holy is Holy**

- God is the only one that can make something Holy

▪ **2) Christians are called the Saints of God**

- Greek word for Saint is “agios” – meaning holy one

▪ **3) No one can see or be with God without Holiness....**

- **Hebrews 12:14<sup>14</sup> Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.**
  - ◆ Without Holiness no one will see or be with God

▪ **4) To Become a Saint, or a Holy One.... The Bible is clear about this...**

- It is **through** Jesus Christ

- Speaking of Jesus, Paul writes

◆ **Romans 5:19<sup>19</sup> For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.**

- Being made righteous is being made Holy

- **1 John 1:7<sup>7</sup> ....and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.**

- ◆ The blood of Jesus is the only way to be cleansed from our sins

- **Revelation 1:5b<sup>5</sup> .....To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood**

- ◆ His blood alone can free us from our sins

- **1 Corinthians 1:2<sup>2</sup> To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:**

- ◆ **Called to be Saints**

- ◆ **Sanctified** means – to make – holy (to set apart)

- ◆ This is done.... **In Christ Jesus**

- ◆ It is done also to only ....**Those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ**

▪ **5) Only God Can Make us Holy... remember**

- A mere man can not
- Not a created being

- Not an amazing creature
- Not a beautiful angel
- Not our self through our really really good works
- **6) Therefore: If only God can make a person Holy or Righteous....**
  - Jesus' identifying himself here as "The Holy One" is Most significant
  - Jesus is once again declaring Himself as the Eternal God
- **One Final Note on Jesus calling Himself the Holy One**
  - **Isaiah 46:9<sup>9</sup> remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me,**
  - Jesus is saying.... I am like God.... I am the Holy One.... I am like God, because I am God
- **Question: Have you come to Jesus so you can be Holy.... So you can enter heaven?**

<sup>7</sup>... the true one,

## ❖ 2) Jesus Is: The True One

- After calling Himself the Holy One... He calls Himself the True One...
  - In one sense I see Him saying... I am True... It is true I am the holy One.
- **Jesus is Truth....**
  - **Meaning of the Word: "alithenos" true, and genuine...**
    - Differentiates from the word meaning "saying true things" "telling the truth"
    - The emphasis here is that He is Truth....
    - Truth is a term that describes Who He is...
  - **John 14:6<sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**
- **Where do you go to get truth?**
  - Your own mind
  - What you learned in High School, College?
  - History Channel, Discovery Channel
  - Books written by men....
  - Combination of Religious Teachings
  - **Scientists...?**
    - Aren't they reliable you may ask
    - Some are... Some are not...
    - When dealing with actual factual empirical evidence they are....
    - But theories and Speculation are just educated guesses...
      - ◆ Scientists thought the earth was flat...
      - ◆ Scientists thought the Sun revolved around the earth...
    - Today many scientists teach the Theory of Evolution....
      - ◆ That everything we see came from nothing, and it all happened by chance, by luck...
      - ◆ It's a theory...
    - **I love science... and get into it as much as I can.... Love learning these things...**
      - ◆ And I don't claim to be One, or as smart as one...
      - ◆ But it is painful to see things taught as fact that are simply theories
      - ◆ Or even worse calling things facts based off of their own **Subjective Presuppositions...**
- **Jesus calls Himself the True One**
  - Think about the magnitude of that statement for just a minute
  - He is saying everything about Him is true...
  - Everything He ever said is true (Written down as the Bible)
  - And if anyone wants to know truth, they should come to Him.....
    - Wow
      - ◆ **John 1:17<sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.**
- **Contrast this With Satan**

- He is called the Father of Lies... That is what Jesus called Him in the Gospels
- He changed God's command to Adam and Eve by one word...
- Caused them to doubt God
- He is the beginning of all that is False
- **Feasting on idols and not God**
  - Remember Pergamum and Thyatira
  - Pergamum had people teaching that it was ok to feast at idol celebrations...
  - In Thyatira the teachings had led to Action
    - They began to eat food sacrificed to idols and to commit sexual immorality...
  - **We made an application of this in our day**
    - Instead of drinking water from God that gives eternal life
      - ◆ We drink from the broken streams of idols
    - Instead of eating the bread that is Jesus
      - ◆ We feast on idols
    - **Speaking strictly spiritually here**
    - We chase after the world and all it has to offer
      - ◆ It offers to fill us with pleasure
      - ◆ And meaning in life
      - ◆ And with Position
      - ◆ Or Power
      - ◆ And we are left with nothing...
    - Reminds me of the Pirates on the first Pirates of the Carribean
      - ◆ They had stolen some Spanish gold and had a curse placed on them
      - ◆ They could eat and drink all they wanted, but they were never filled....Always hungry...
  - **So Satan lays before us...**
    - So many different ways to bring us pleasure
    - Or to assure us of our future
    - Or to place before us a way to heaven...
      - ◆ And they are lies
      - ◆ And they lead to a person's ruin
      - ◆ **Matthew 7:13-14** <sup>13</sup> "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. <sup>14</sup> For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.
    - **Every Religion and way of thinking that runs counter to the teachings of Jesus Christ**
      - ◆ AS WRITTEN in the 66 books of the Bible...
      - ◆ Is a lie created by Satan to bring delusion to men
  - **Jesus is the True One**
    - Amidst all the lies that Satan has placed before men...
    - Jesus stands as the only Source of Truth...
      - ◆ John 18:37b....**For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.**"
  - **So You Ask... How do I find out this truth?**
    - I am glad you asked..... Read His Word.... Read his Word... The Bible.... It contains His truth
    - Listen to His voice

<sup>7</sup>.....who has the key of David,

- ❖ **3) Jesus Is: The Entrance to Heaven And Rewards**
  - **He has the key of David (What does He mean by this?)**
    - You must think spiritually here...
      - This is not a physical key he is speaking of....
      - It is also not just a metaphor

- He has the Key

➤ **Lets see if we can figure this out....**

- Think back to the time of King David...
  - King David is noted as a man after God's own heart
  - He is known as the King that really brought Israel together as a great nation
  - Through King David the nation came to know Unprecedented Wealth
  - Through King David Israel became an great Nation
  - Through King David, Israel conquered everyone that came against them...
    - ◆ King David became the standard by which all other Kings would be measured...
- **The nation quickly lost this power after the death of David**
  - And the mismanagement of the Kingdom under His son Solomon...
  - Yet the glory of Israel... the symbol of their kingdom was through David
- **The nation longed for a return to its former prominence known through King David**
  - And it was God that promised that He would restore the kingdom of David
  - That through the root of Jesse/David God would send a King
    - ◆ Isaiah 11:10 <sup>10</sup> In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.
- **Eliakim (a foreshadow of Jesus)**
  - Speaking of Eliakim (whom you find in 2 kings 18 and is given the throne)
    - ◆ Isaiah 22:22 <sup>22</sup> And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.
- **The Key of David**
  - Came to be known as **the keys to the kingdom**
  - And also the keys to the **treasure house**
  - For Eliakim this is the nation of Israel...
- **Jesus and the Key of David...**
  - For Jesus this means the Kingdom of God...
  - The small little kingdom of Israel is nothing compared to the kingdom of God...
- **Most of the Jewish people at the time were ill prepared for their King**
  - They were expecting an earthly ruler
    - ◆ Many of His disciples were confused as well...
  - To come and restore the earthly kingdom to its former glory...
  - So the disregarded Jesus as the Messiah...
  - **And there were many in this city of Philadelphia like this...**
    - ◆ The one Jesus says are of the synagogue of Satan...
      - That is a tough pill to swallow... right?
      - Thinking you are following God, only to find your god is Satan... yikes

➤ **Jesus is saying here....He is the way into it...**

➤ **He is the Way**

- John 14:6 <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
- **It is clear from what Jesus said, that He takes a very exclusive view on entering into heaven...**
  - Through Him...
  - If you were to ask Him...
    - ◆ what about the Mormon way of good works, nope
    - ◆ or the Buddhists way of Enlightenment, nope
    - ◆ or the Hindu's way through reincarnation, nope
    - ◆ or the Jehovah Witness way, nope
    - ◆ or the Roman Catholic way of works and sacraments and prayers, nope
    - ◆ or the Muslim way of pleasing Allah.... Nope
  - Only through Him...

➤ **He is who gives out the Treasures**

- He who has the key of David has the key to the Treasures...
- And from these treasures... Jesus will reward his servants...

#### ➤ **Cozy up to Jesus**

- When you are looking for that big bonus or pay raise... you cozy up to the boss
- When people are wanting their loved ones inheritance... they often try to get close to them in the last days...
- If you want to get into the Kingdom of God... you better have a relationship with Jesus...
- If you want to be rewarded in heaven, you better know Jesus...

7.....who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.

### ❖ **4) Jesus Is: The Final Authority**

#### ➤ **His Will will be Done**

- God alone makes the decision on who gets into heaven
  - Daniel 4:34b-35 "...for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; <sup>35</sup> all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?"

#### ➤ **I Will in No way try to make Jesus easier to digest...**

- After all, He is not a tame lion – C.S. Lewis
- He is who he is, and we can not change it, or explain it away...

#### ➤ **I chose you (God does the choosing)**

- Jesus told His disciples:
  - John 15:16 <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

#### ➤ **Where is my choice, you ask?**

- It comes secondary to God's calling
- The Bible is clear we must come to Christ...
- It is clear we must believe on...Jesus...
- It is something we do.... But.... (Jesus opens and shuts)

#### ➤ **Jesus opens and shuts**

- Do not take for granted that you will be drawn to God again
  - Matthew 22:14 <sup>14</sup> For many are called, but few are chosen."

#### ➤ **Who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens....**

- He has full authority here....
- Luke 13:22-27 <sup>22</sup> He went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. <sup>23</sup> And someone said to him, "Lord, will those who are saved be few?" And he said to them, <sup>24</sup> "Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. <sup>25</sup> When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, open to us,' then he will answer you, 'I do not know where you come from.' <sup>26</sup> Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.' <sup>27</sup> But he will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!'

#### ➤ **Your Response**

- Run to God... Plead with God.... Do not let the Sun go down on you until you are at peace with God
  - If you will do this, you will find He had been there all along... drawing you to Him
- James 4.8 "Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you

### ❖ **Attributes of God**

- Looking back we can see clearly the Attributes of Almighty God here
- 1) Holiness
- 2) Truth
- 3) Sovereign
- 4) Omnipotence

## ❖ Encouraging Words

### ➤ Amazing that after this introduction... He gives no rebuke

#### ▪ Remember the others...

- The two edge sword..... later says He will come and make war
- The one with eyes as flames of fire and feet of burnished bronze
  - ◆ Later says He will Throw Jezebel on a sickbed, and kill those that follow her
  - ◆ And would throw His servants that are sinning because of her... into great tribulation...

### ➤ **The Holy One... The True One...** The One who has the keys to the Kingdom... the One who decides who gets in and who does not

#### ▪ He goes on to do nothing but commend them for their work for Him

## ❖ Invitation

### ➤ Holy One – How will you become Holy

### ➤ True One – Where will you find Truth

### ➤ Key to the Kingdom – Through who or what are you trying to make it into heaven...

### ➤ Final Authority – Have you been chosen of God... Has He called you and you responded...

- John 10:7-10 <sup>7</sup> So Jesus again said to them, **“Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.**