

THE CHURCH AT PHILADELPHIA

Rev 3:7-13

INTRODUCTION;

- A. Philadelphia: a Greek word meaning "brotherly love." It was so called in honor of Attalus II, king of Pergamom, who was given the title Philadelphus because of his loyalty to his elder brother, Eumenes II, king of Lydia.
- B. Sometimes called "Little Athens" because of temples & centers of learning in the city. It was famous for its wines & worshipped the wine god, Baachus.
- C. Founded primarily to spread Greek language & culture eastward, and had been given an open door to spread Greek ideas in the lands beyond.
- D. City, about 28 miles southeast of Sardis, was destroyed by earthquakes several times but continues to exist even now, however not under the same name
- E. Never attained the eminence of the other cities where churches were located.
- F. A city of about 18,000 now with 5 churches and about 3,000 professing Christians (at time book was written research was done from)
- G. Examine what John by inspiration wrote to this church

DISCUSSION:

I. DESCRIPTION OF THE SPEAKER

- A. In the last letter we noticed the speaker (Christ) had the Spirit of God without measure, and messengers were under his authority
- B. Here we see Christ spoken of as:
 - 1. Holy - without sin 1Pet 2:22,23; Heb 4:15
 - 2. Truth - He is truth Jhn 14:6
 - 3. Has the key of David - symbol of authority
 - a. Has all power Matt 28:18
 - b. Rule till all enemies under his feet 1Cor 15:25
 - c. He alone can admit to the kingdom - He is the door Jhn 10:9

II. WORKS KNOWN BY THE LORD

- A. He knows our works Heb 4:12,13
- B. Set before them an open door (opportunity to teach)
 - 1. Had great opportunity to evangelize
 - 2. Paul spoke of having a great door 1Cor 16:9

III. COMMENDATIONS GIVEN BY THE LORD

- B. Had a little strength - God makes little things big
 - 1. Gideon's reduced army - thousands to 300 men
 - 2. Moses' rod
 - 3. David's sling and stones

- C. Kept God's word
 - 1. To keep word must love Christ Jhn 14:23
 - 2. If love him will keep his commandments Jhn 14:15
- D. Had not denied God's name
 - 1. Christians were often tried
 - 2. Told to blaspheme under penalty of death
 - 3. If deny Christ he will deny us Matt 10:33

IV. NO REPROOF GIVEN - VINDICATION INSTEAD

(Vindication = to free from allegation or blame)

- A. Two letters out of seven contain no reproof - (Smyrna & Philadelphia) both thought to be poor materially (may say something about effect of materialism)
- B. Make false Jews (Synagogue of Satan) realize Lord with Christians (v.9)
 - 1. God is with his people Matt 28:20
 - 2. If God is with us who can be against us Rom 8:31

V. COMFORT AND ADMONITION

- A. God would keep them because they kept His word
 - 1. Possibly some specific trial referred to
 - 2. However, we are not tempted above that we are able to bear 1Cor 10:13
- B. Hold fast to what you have
 - 1. That no man take your crown
 - 2. Crown = reward - man could take it by causing them to fall.

CONCLUSION;

- A. Reward promised to those who overcome
 - 1. Make him a pillar - go no more out - a permanent home
 - 2. Names written on him - shows possession or ownership
- B. He who has an ear let him hear - hear what? What the Spirit saith unto the churches
- C. Remember if we confess Christ, keep his word, God will take the strength we have and use it in a very big way in the opportunities (open doors) we have before us.