

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Chapters 2-3 – Church History – Seven Letters to Seven Churches

THE PHILADELPHIA LETTER – PART ONE – REVELATION 3:7-13

Today's study reveals the _____ letter written to the seven churches in Asia Minor by the apostle John—the letter to the church at Philadelphia. Doctrinally this is the time, just following the dark ages, of the greatest _____ activity the world has ever known (1500 AD – 1900 AD). This is the church period of the _____ door when believers took the Bible to the ends of the earth through the trade routes of Great Brittan and sent missionaries everywhere from both England and the United States of America. Philadelphia represents the best of the best in human history.

The name Philadelphia means: _____

- The name *Philadelphia* is derived from two words, one meaning *brethren*, and the other meaning *love*. This name supernaturally represents the characteristics of this church and also this particular period in church history (1500 AD – 1900 AD).

There is no greater love you can show anyone than the kind of love that tells the _____ of Jesus Christ and the gospel of eternal life thru him alone. The Philadelphian church is full of believers that preach the Bible and gospel to the lost world while working under the threat of martyrdom

There are positive commendations given:

1. They are _____ working – Rev. 3:7-8a

- This is the church of the _____ – Col. 4:3; 1 Cor. 16:9; 2 Cor. 2:12; also see verse 7
This is the church with the _____ of _____ – Ps. 119:119; 127; 159; 138:2

2. They have a little _____ – Rev. 3:8b

- The horrific persecution during the dark ages by the RCC has all but sapped the power from believers as they were forced into hiding to save their lives. As a result, here in Philadelphia they have been rendered a *little strength*.

This *little strength* works out for the good – Isaiah 40:29-31; 41:10; 45:24; John 15:4-7; 2 Cor. 3:4-5; 2 Cor. 12:9-10; Eph. 3:16; 6:10; Phil. 4:13; Col. 1:11

3. They have _____ God's _____ – Rev. 3:8c

- They have not _____ Christ's name

No matter what happens to the Philadelphian believers—peril of life and limb, ridicule from peers and family members, persecution from religious or government authorities, they will not, nor have they, denied the name of their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

There are promises given

1. God's reward – Rev. 3:9

- God will render their adversaries broken and humbled. He will personally testify to those that follow false religious systems that he _____ the believers in the church of Philadelphia.

Those who were part of the religious harlot called Jezebel, who by their doctrines and practices, had all but replaced the Jew (God's chosen people from time immemorial), would be delivered to the feet of Bible believers and receive "*His name*" and worship the only one worthy of receiving worship—in other words, the religious adversaries will get _____

2. God's rescue – Rev. 3:10-12

a. God will keep them from the hour of _____

- This church has been patient, they have diligently labored for Jesus Christ in the field and produced much fruit. Their focus has been on the return of Christ (2 Thess. 3:5). Therefore, they will receive a crown of righteousness because they patiently waited for Jesus Christ and his glorious appearing (2 Ti. 4:8).

The Philadelphia church will be raptured, caught up to meet Christ in the air, _____ the tribulation period begins

b. Jesus Christ has eternal plans for _____ his saints

- All those genuinely saved (born-again) are overcomers – John 16:33; 1 John 5:4
- Names will be written on those that overcome

The name of my God

The name of the city of my God – new Jerusalem

My new name

3. God's reminder – Rev. 3:13

- This message is for all churches. Every believer needs to hear the message from these seven letters. Throughout all of church history, every church needs to be a Philadelphian church—a church of brotherly love, which in turn will have an open door that no man can shut.

NEXT WEEK: The Philadelphia Letter – Part Two

Historical – 91 AD – 96 AD

Doctrinal – Church History from 1500 AD – 1900 AD

Devotional – Can we be a Philadelphian church living in a Laodicean age?

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Chapters 2-3 – Church History – Seven Letters to Seven Churches – Addendum 5

A LITTLE STRENGTH

Isaiah 40:29-31 – He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Isaiah 41:10 – Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Isaiah 45:24 – Surely, shall one say, in the LORD have I righteousness and strength: even to him shall men come; and all that are incensed against him shall be ashamed.

John 15:4-7 – Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

2 Corinthians 3:4-5 – And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward: Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 – And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

Ephesians 3:16 – That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

Ephesians 6:10 – Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Philippians 4:13 – I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Colossians 1:11 – Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

... A LITTLE STRENGTH IS ALL WE NEED WHEN WE HAVE CHRIST!