

THE CHURCH OF BROTHERLY LOVE
REV. 3:7-13 / 5-30-2018 / WED

INTRODUCTION

- A. The City of Philadelphia-v. 7a—“**To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write...**”
1. Smallest of the seven cities addressed.
 2. Located in a narrow pass between two mountain ranges.
 3. Due to its location it was often overran by enemies.
 4. Named by the king of Pergamum for his brother, hence, "the city of brotherly love".
 5. Built on a natural fault and experienced a devastating earthquake in 17A.D.
- B. The vision of Christ-v. 7b-8a.*These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. 8 I know your deeds.....*
1. First seen in **Rev. 1:18**.
 2. Notice three truths about Christ.
 - a. His attributes.
 - i. He is the "holy" one—v.7.
 - ii. He is "true" -v. 7—or genuine one as opposed to false idols.
 - b. His authority—v.7.
 - i. He holds "the key of David".
 - ii. He controls the doors-according to v. 8b-- **I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut.....**his is the door of opportunity.
 - c. His appraisal-v.8a—“**I know your deeds...**”
 3. Door or Doors mentioned 123 times in the Bible. Used three ways.
 - a. Door of intimacy with Christ—Rev. 3:20.

b. Door of salvation—John 10:9.

c. Door of Opportunity—Col. 4:3.

I. THREE QUALITIES OF THIS CHURCH.

A. Weakness—v.8c—“**I know that you have little strength...**” and—2 Cor.12:10.

B. Wordy—v. 8—“**...yet you have kept my word...**”

C. Waverless—v. 8—“**... and have not denied my name.**”

II. SIX PROMISES TO THIS CHURCH.

A. I will humble your enemies—v.9—“**I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you.**”

1. Refers to Jewish persecution.

2. Jews thought they were doing God a favor.

B. You will not go through the Tribulation—v. 10—“**Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.**”

1. Some believe this refers to severe Roman persecution to come.

2. Some believe it refers to the Great Tribulation before the Second Coming described by John in Rev. 6-19.

3. Three camps concerning when the Tribulation occurs with relation to the Rapture of the Church.

a. Post-Tribulation believe the church will go through the tribulation and then the Rapture will occur.

b. Mid-Tribulation believe the rapture will occur in the middle.

c. Pre-Tribulation believes the Rapture will occur before the Tribulation.

Why?

1. Jesus doesn't say “I will keep you through the hour of trial”

2. Instead Jesus says “I will keep you from the hour of trial”

3. The word “church” appears 19 times in Rev. 1-3, but not at all after this. Why? We're in heaven!

4. Understand that our salvation doesn't depend on which of these three camps we are in.

C. I am coming soon—v.11a—“**I am coming soon....**”

1. This phrase is found six times in Rev—2:11, 2:10, 11:14, 22:7, 12, 20.

2. This phrase is always in present tense—“I” Jesus is coming personally.

D. Your salvation is secure—11b—**“Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.”**

1. In one sense our salvation is about “preservation”—John 10:28-29.

2. In another sense our salvation is about “perseverance”—I John 1:29.

3. So salvation is about holding on and being held.

E. I will strengthen you—v.12a—**“The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it....”**

1. Their city was insecure because it had been rebuilt over the ash of the volcano that caused the earthquake in 17 A.D.

2. Pillars represent the strength upon which buildings and churches are constructed with.

3. Jesus is the one true foundation for our life and church—1 Cor. 3:11.

F. I will give you a new name—12b--.... **“I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name.”**

1. Their city had a great name.

2. However, bearing the name of Christ is far greater—Acts 11:26.

Acts 11:26

..... **The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.”**

