

" Philadelphia – The Church of the Open Door " (1)

Portions of this message were inspired during personal prayer and study time primarily in the Book of Revelation. Additional study sources for this series include: *The Revelation* by John F. Walvoord; *The Revelation Record* by Henry M. Morris; *E Quake* by Jack Hayford; *Keys to Revelation* study notes by Jack Hayford; *The New International Bible Commentary*, edited by F. F. Bruce; *The NIV Study Bible*, 1985 by The Zondervan Corporation; *Thru the Bible* by J. Vernon McGee; *Revelation of History* by Elizabeth Williams; *Seeing Things John's Way* by David A. deSilva; *The Book of Revelation (Revised)*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament by Robert H. Mounce; *Revelation Expanded* by Finis Jennings Dake; *The Book of Revelation* by Clarence Larkin; *Systematic Theology (Revised Edition)* edited by Stanley M. Horton; *Bible Doctrines: A Pentecostal Perspective* by William W. Menzies and Stanley M. Horton; *Faith Lessons on the Early Church: Conquering the Gates of Hell* by Ray Vander Laan; *Revelation: Four Views*, edited by Steve Gregg; *The Ultimate Victory* by Stanley M. Horton; *A Study on Revelation* by Boyce A. Teas (unpublished); *The Letters to the Seven Churches of Asia*, William M. Ramsay; LearnTheBible.org; JewishEncyclopedia.com; AllAboutArchaeology.org; BiblePlaces.com; Sacred-Destinations.com; GodsCare.net; BenedictSeraphim.WordPress.com; Guide-Martine.com; Bible-History.com; HolyLandPhotos.org; Britannica.com;

Pastor Ed recommends these and other resources to you. He invites you to contact him at info@EastonWorshipCenter.org to join in our online discussions.

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Easton Worship Center

Revelation 3:7-13 NIV

7a "To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

Revelation 3 NIV

*7b 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.*

When we deviate from the truth of the Word of God for our standards of faith and conduct, we jeopardize our holy living with error and the distractions of man's pre-dispositions.

DID YOU KNOW?

The ancient city of Philadelphia was established by a Greek king named Eumenes II. Eumenes II had a famously loyal relationship with his brother, Attalus II. Attalus was known as *Attalus Philadelphos*, which means, "Attalus, the one who loves his brother."

When Eumenes established the city, he wanted to honor his loyal brother. So he called it *Philadelphia*, which means, "The City of Brotherly Love."

Some 1,900 years later William Penn selected this name for the new city he planned in the frontier territory which is now known in the U.S. as Pennsylvania.

Adapted from Encyclopedia Britannica

Isaiah 22:20-24 NIV

20 "In that day I will summon my servant, Eliakim son of Hilkiyah.

21 I will clothe him with your robe and fasten your sash around him and hand your authority over to him. He will be a father to those who live in Jerusalem and to the house of Judah.

22 I will place on his shoulder the key to the house of David; what he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.

23 I will drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will be a seat of honor for the house of his father.

24 All the glory of his family will hang on him: its offspring and offshoots — all its lesser vessels, from the bowls to all the jars.

The name Eliakim means "God raising up!"

Acts 4:12 NIV

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

Revelation 3 NIV

*8 I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you **have kept my word** and have **not denied my name**.*

John 14:15 NIV

"If you love me, you will obey what I command."

Revelation 1:17b-18 NIV

"I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades."

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 NIV

9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

For prayerful reflection:

- Describe the words of Christ that you seem to struggle to obey. What is it about those particular commands that seem to be so difficult to live by?
- Consider the areas of your life that you *are* living according to God's Word. In what ways do you have to "fight" to maintain your faithfulness to the Lord in these areas? What are the results when you stand strong?

Life Scriptures for this week

Mon, Jul 26	Revelation 3.7
Tue, Jun 27	Revelation 3.8-9
Wed, Jul 28	Revelation 3.10
Thu, Jul 29	Revelation 3.11-13
Fri, Jul 30	Isaiah 22.20-24
Sat, Jul 31	2 Corinthians 12.9-10
Sun, Aug 1	Colossians 4.3

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Philadelphia can be distinguished from the other cities of the Book of Revelation by four key characteristics:
1) it was the missionary city
2) its people lived in constant dread of disaster
3) many of its people chose to live outside the city for safety
4) it repeatedly took the new name of an imperial 'god'

Adapted from Ramsay, ch.27