

" Philadelphia – The Church of the Open Door " (2)

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; *Prevision 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 Expounded* 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Views*, edited by Steve Gregg; *The Ultimate Victory* by Stanley M. Horton; *A Study on Revelation* by Boyce A. Teas (unpublished); *The Letters to the Seven Churches of Asia*, William M. Ramsay; LearnTheBible.org; JewishEncyclopedia.com; AllAboutArchaeology.org; BiblePlaces.com;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:*

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.*

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

The church in Philadelphia kept his Word. They didn't ...

debate his Word
distort his Word
dispute his Word
dilute his Word
deny his Word

The means to accomplishing his will is to **keep his Word by the power of the Holy Spirit** and to **not deny his name by declaring it plainly** in our lives and through the ministries of this church.

Revelation 3 NIV

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.*

Romans 2:28-29 NIV

28 *A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical.*

29 *No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a man's praise is not from men, but from God.*

CHECK IT OUT!

Some Bible students believe that Jesus' term "open door" also refers to Philadelphia Worship Center's opportunity for missions work. They connect verse 8 with three other New Testament verses that refer to open doors.

Look up the following verses on your own:

1 Corinthians 16.8-9
2 Corinthians 2.12
Colossians 4.3

Do you also think that Jesus was referring to evangelism in Revelation 3.8, or only to himself as the Open Door? Why?

Galatians 3:28-29 NIV

28 *There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*
29 *If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a new creation. (Galatians 6:15 NIV)

Note: "Circumcision" was an earthly way of demonstrating 'Jewishness' outwardly. Once Jesus revealed himself as the Christ, the outward actions of circumcision no longer carried the spiritual significance that it carried in the Old Testament. For more info, also check out: Colossians 3.11-12 and John 8.31-44

Revelation 3 NIV

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 upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.*
11 *I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.*

Revelation 3 NIV

12a *Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it.*

For more about overcomers, see Revelation 12.10-12

Revelation 3 NIV

12b *I will write on him 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 him my new name.*
13 *He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.*

Ephesians 2:21-22

For prayerful reflection:

- Which "earthquakes" of your life have you permitted to continue to foster fear into your walk with God? Why?
- What active steps could you take this week and in the coming weeks to take your stand as a "pillar" in the shaken world around us by *keeping his Word* and *declaring his Name*?
- What risks would be involved in taking these actions?

Life Scriptures for this week

Note: The first four days' scriptures are repeated from last week. Take your time to prayerfully read through them again. Then why not provide your own inputs and thoughts to Pastor Ed and others via email?

Mon, Aug 2	Revelation 3.7
Tue, Aug 3	Revelation 3.8-9
Wed, Aug 4	Revelation 3.10
Thu, Aug 5	Revelation 3.11-13
Fri, Aug 6	Galatians 3.28-29; 6.15
Sat, Aug 7	Revelation 12.10-12
Sun, Aug 8	Ephesians 2.21-22

If you are not already on our LifeScriptures email distro list, pls contact us at info@EastonWorshipCenter.org and we be pleased to add you!