

Revelation 3:7-13 | The Church with the Open Door

Jesus introduces Himself as

- **Holy** (Purity and Deity and uniqueness)
- **True** (*Alethinos* = real and genuine) (cnt. not false)
- **Has the Key of David**
 - Isaiah 22:22
 - **Eliakim, the faithful steward for King Hezekiah** (palace administrator) (Prefigures Jesus)
 - The king had given him the key so that no one could gain admission to the royal palace and the royal presence except through him and him alone
 - **who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens**
 - **John 14:6 (NASB)**
I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.
 - Romans 5:1-2 (NIV)
Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **through whom we have gained access by faith** into this grace in which we now stand...

But it is not only that Jesus holds the **keys** and is **the way to salvation**

- He also holds the **keys** and the **ways of our lives**
 - **Psalms 139:1-18 (NLT)**
- God is sovereign
 - Over us and our circumstances—He has sovereign good plans... for our usefulness for His glory

Verse 8

- **I have put before you an open door which no one can shut**
 - An opportunity for service and witness
 - **Philadelphia**
 - Strategic... Gateway to the East
 - Where borders of 3 countries met (Mysia, Lydia, Phrygia)
 - Commanded one of the greatest highways in the world (From Europe to the East)
 - Had been built with the intention of being **a missionary city** (for Hellenism)
 - Perhaps this was the **open door** Jesus was speaking of
 - This particular location and situation
 - Missionary possibility

What **open door** has God **put before you**?

- Do not tell me that there is not one
- There is an open door in your life to be a witness for Jesus Christ
- One that fits your unique circumstances (Cf. **Philadelphia**) (**you are a missionary**)

You say, "**But I am not prepared, not equipped, not strong enough**"

- That is kinda the point
- **Because you have a little power** (as in **only** a little strength)
 - **1 Corinthians 1:26-2:5 (NASB)**
- The **open door** was Christ's doing—He has **the Key**
- **The strength is His**
 - 1 Peter 4:10-11 (NASB)
10 As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.
11 Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever.
Amen.

Jesus will supply the **strength**, He has **opened the door**—will you walk through it?

But the opposition is so great

- People are offended by Christianity
 - Its morals
 - Its exclusivity

Verse 9

- **Synagogue of Satan**
 - What this is not (general statement about Jews and Judaism)
 - 2 Possibilities
 - Accomplices with Rome (corrupt and implicit in murder) (Cf. Paul)
 - Coward Christians who had converted
 - **Who say they are Jews and are not**
 - **Christ and His followers will be vindicated**
 - **Every knee will bow and tongue confess...**

Time is limited... today is the day for faithful witness

Verse 10

- Refers to the tribulation period and may be a reference to the Rapture... pre-trib (*ek*, not *en* or *dia*)

Verse 11

- Hits at the urgency and the need to persevere
- 2 Timothy 4:7-8 (NLT)
 - 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful.**
 - 8 And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.**

In the end, it will be worth sticking with and being faithful to Jesus

- He is the **Holy** one who is the **real thing** and holds **the keys**
- He is the only thing worth building our lives on (The **solid rock** versus **sinking sand**)
- True security and permanence are found in Him

Philadelphia

- When someone came to the end of their lives and they had been faithful servants to the city and nation
 - Their names were engraved on one of the pillars of the many false temples (to endure)
 - **Verse 12^a**
- Was a city built near volcanoes with many great earthquakes
 - Been destroyed before
 - Rebuilt and renamed (in gratitude) **Neo Caesarea** (the name did not stick)
 - **Verse 12^c**
- People had to constantly flee from it—never quite secure
 - **Verse 12^b**

Jesus used the lures and dangers of their own place and time to point them to **a better place and time**

- For which are you living?
- **Hebrews 11:8-10; 24-26; 13 + 16**
- Jesus alone is Holy, true and in control... obey Him