



OPENING COMMENT

The sixth of the seven churches is yet another church that does not receive any reprimand or correction. They are faithful to Christ amidst the same pressures the other churches experienced. Even in their faithfulness they need an encouraging word from the savior and Lord. Jesus' promises invigorate and encourage the church in Philadelphia to continue on and should do so for us as we seek to be a church that emulates the faithfulness found there.

READ THE TEXT: Revelation 3:7-13

⁷ "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: 'The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens, and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.

⁸ "I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. ⁹ Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you. ¹⁰ Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. ¹¹ I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. ¹² The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. ¹³ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'



UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

1. What are the things Jesus uses to identify himself and what is the significance of each of them?
2. What three descriptors does Jesus use of the church in Philadelphia?
3. What will those that call themselves “Jews” discover about the church in Philadelphia? Who will show it to them?
4. What ways could you possibly interpret verse 10? Which is most appropriate for the church in Philadelphia?
5. What are the promises made to the church if they remain faithful?

APPLYING THE TEXT

1. The descriptors used at the beginning of this letter indicate Jesus’ sovereign rule over salvation. How would this bring comfort to a small powerless church? How does it bring comfort to you today?
2. This church did not need great strength or power to be faithful to Christ. Where in our lives are we looking for greater influence or power instead of greater faithfulness to Christ and his word?
3. When was the last time you felt the love of Christ in a tangible way? How did that impact you?
4. Where are you currently patiently enduring for the sake of Christ? Where do you need strengthening or encouragement?
5. How does Christ’s promise that he will keep you amidst the trials bring encouragement?
6. Pillars a permanent, meaning that those who endure will have a permanent place in the presence of God. How often do you dwell on the future with Christ and how does that motivate you in the present? How might we encourage one another to more regularly lift our eyes to the spiritual horizon?

BIBLICAL THREAD

1. Isaiah 6:1-6 – God’s holiness on display and the reaction of those who are unworthy.
2. Isaiah 22:15-25 – Origin of the Key of David.
3. Matthew 10:16-33 – Jesus says persecution will come.
4. John 14:15-31 – Loving Jesus means keeping his word. Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to help.
5. John 16:25-33 – Jesus promises tribulation but comfort that he has overcome.
6. 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 – our current suffering will be nothing in comparison to glory.



CONCLUSION

In a world struggling for every inch of power possible Jesus reminds us that power is not the priority. It is not the priority because He is ultimately powerful and in control and provides all we need. Power is not our focus because He holds access to eternal dwelling with God. Power is not important because He promises to keep us to the end. Power is not important because He loves his church. All that leaves for us is a call to be faithful. Faithful despite our weakness. Faithful despite our circumstances. Faithful despite our reputation. Just simple faithfulness and the glory waiting for us will make everything we face today seem like a light momentary affliction.

SHARE & PRAY

LIFE GROUP VISION:

The goal to meeting together around the word of God is three-fold. First, we want to more clearly understand what God is saying to us through his Word and apply it to our own hearts and minds. Secondly, we want to build a loving community with each other to disciple one another toward maturity in Christ. Thirdly, we desire each of us, as ambassadors of Christ, to look outwards to our community and ask how we can bring the truth of the gospel to bear on those whom God has placed in our lives.

