

October 27, 2019 The Church at Philadelphia

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The Church @ Philadelphia

Oct. 27, 2019

Revelation 3:7-13

Introduction:

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- Founded approx 140BC
- by king of Pergaums named Attalus II
- Named because of his love and loyalty to his brother
- strategic loc
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- major E/W trade route
- edge of volcanic region
- made for good soil
- produced quality grapes
- known for its wine
- many hot springs - thought to have therapeutic properties
- all this made Philadelphia a city full of opportunity!

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• “The primary reason Attalus chose this site for his city was that it stood on the borders of three countries: Lydia, Mysia, and Phrygia. It was the gateway from the highly civilized kingdom of Lydia, with its Greek language and Greek customs, to the uncivilized territory to the east. Like the new western towns in the early days of our own country's history, so the new city of Philadelphia was an open door of opportunity. The attempted Hellenization of the barbarous tribes to the east, the effort to convert them to the Greek way of life, afforded the people of Philadelphia with countless openings and opportunities.” - Dr. Richard L. Strauss

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• “As we might well expect, there was a church of Jesus Christ at Philadelphia. Like the city in which it was located, the church was faced with unlimited opportunities. But it seems as though they had not made the best use of those opportunities. They must have expected the worst that Sunday morning when their pastor opened the letter from John which contained the words of the Lord. If the fundamental church at Ephesus had been criticized for its lack of love, if the persecuted church at [Pergamum](#) had been criticized for its compromise, if the loving working church at [Thyatira](#) had been criticized for its corruption, if the thriving church at [Sardis](#) had been criticized for its deadness, what would Christ say about them? For you see, they hadn't made the most of their opportunities and they were weak. That is exactly what we read in Revelation 3:8. “

- Dr. Richard L Strauss

I.Christ's Critique of the Church v8a

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- church had limited strength

II.Christ's Challenge to the Church vs 7-8

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- He opened the door! Now go thru it!(Blank check!!)
- Acts 14:27 After they arrived and gathered the church together, they reported everything God had done with them and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.
- 1 Corinthians 16:9 because a wide door for effective ministry has opened for me
- 2 Corinthians 2:12 When I came to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ, the Lord opened a door for me.
- Colossians 4:3 At the same time, pray also for us that God may open a door to us for the message, to speak the mystery of the Messiah, for which I am in prison

III.Christ's Consolation to the Church vs 9-11

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- Defeat of her enemies
- Deliverance from the Great Tribulation!

IV.Christ's Compensation to the Church vs12-13

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- Permanent Entrance into His Presence v12
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- notable citizens would have a pillar/ column erected as a memorial in the local temple

- Permanent Identification with God's Person v12b
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- His name written on you!