

6. In 3:9, Jesus describes Jewish people who are persecuting the believers as they did with the church in Smyrna (2:9). Why does He call them a synagogue of Satan? In what sense are they lying?
7. Jesus makes 4 promises in vv. 9-12. What are they? Summarize each in a few words? Thank Jesus that He has the authority / power to keep those promises.
8. What does it mean that Jesus will keep His true children “from the hour of testing, that *hour* which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth?” Does this mean that He will keep us THROUGH the hour of testing or that He will remove us FROM the hour of testing?
9. What does it mean to hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown? To what do we hold fast? What crown?
10. How do the promises in verse 12 specifically apply to people who lived in Philadelphia (earthquake country)? How does this apply to us?
 - Pillar
 - Not go out from it anymore
 - Write on him the name (s)...
11. Share with each other some doors the Lord has closed in your life. What doors did He open instead? How difficult was it to change directions? What has He done in your life as a result?
12. What open doors does the Lord have for our church right now? How might you encourage others in our church to cling to the Lord, receive His power, keep His Word, and proclaim His name?
13. The Lord is opening doors to reach people here in L.A. Who has He placed in your path to evangelize (family, neighborhood, school, workplace)? If you think it’s impossible for them to come to saving faith, pray to the One who has sovereignty over life and death. Believe that He can open the door, then be faithful to proclaim Him no matter what the results may be.

January 26, 2025
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
 Pastor Paul S. Brown
 Revelation 3:7-13

“The Things Which Are” – Part 6
Our Glorious Lord’s Message to the Church at Philadelphia

I. The Things Which You Have Seen – Revelation 1

II. **The Things Which Are – Revelation 2-3**

- A. The Church at **Ephesus** (2:1-7)
- B. The Church at **Smyrna** (2:8-11)
- C. The Church at **Pergamum** (2:12-17)
- D. The Church at **Thyatira** (2:18-29)
- E. The Church at **Sardis** (3:1-6)
- F. The Church at **Philadelphia** (3:7-13)

1. Place (7) – “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

2. Portrait (7) – “He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this:”

3. Praise (8) – ‘I know your deeds... because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name.’

4. **Problem**

5. **Prescription (11b)** – “...hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown.”

6. **Promise (9-13)** –

⁹ ‘Behold, I will cause *those* of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and *make them* know that I have loved you. ¹⁰ Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that *hour* which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. ¹¹ I am coming quickly... ¹² He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; 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 out of heaven from My God, and My new name. ¹³ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’

So What?

Discussion & Application:

1. Reflect on what you learned last week from the church at Sardis. How is it possible for a church to appear to be so successful (size, money, programs) yet be seen by Jesus as dead? What are some clues that a church is dead?
2. In what ways was the church in Philadelphia the opposite of the church in Sardis? What are some clues that a church is alive? Does this always mean the church will be large in number or popular in the community?
3. Jesus describes Himself in four ways in v. 7. What does each mean. Why would it be important for the believers in Philadelphia to hear this? Why is this important for us to hear?
 - Holy
 - True
 - Has the key of David
 - Opens and no one will shut; shuts and no one opens
4. Verse 8 has a parenthesis in it after “I know your deeds.” The deeds are described in the second half of the verse. Jesus has nothing negative to say about this church. How do each of these contribute to being a church that pleases Jesus? How can we grow in these?
 - “...you have a little power”
 - “...have kept My word”
 - “...have not denied My name”
5. What does it mean that Jesus has put before them an open door which no one can shut? What door is this? What should they do?