

New Vision
Seven: Letters of Revelation
Letter to Philadelphia
Revelation 3:7-13
06/16/2019

MAIN POINT

Christ opened the door of heaven to all who trust Him in faith and to be a church that is faithful to Him.

INTRODUCTION

What is the most important promise you have ever made? Have you been able to keep it? Has it ever been difficult to keep?

When has someone broken a promise to you? Why are broken promises so hurtful?

Even promises made with the best of intentions can be broken this side of heaven because a promise is only good as the one who makes the promise. We are all fallen and despite our best efforts cannot keep every promise we make. Jesus is not like us. He is perfectly honest and perfectly reliable. Every promise of God finds their “yes” in Jesus (2 Cor 1:20). Christ promised the church in Philadelphia and us today, that if we place our faith in Him, the door of heaven is always open to us. And now we as a church are called to be faithful to Him!

UNDERSTANDING

| Have a volunteer read revelation 3:7-10

7 “To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: 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.

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.

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.

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 on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.

How did Jesus identify and describe Himself in these verses? Which description encourages you the most? Why?

What did Jesus mean when He said He had the key of David? What does that give Him the ability to do?

In the sermon a description of being faithful is provided. Here are some of these main points:

Faithful individuals keep God's Word.
Faithful individuals do not deny God's name.
Faithful individuals endure suffering and opposition

What confidence does it give you to know that through Jesus, the door to heaven will never be shut to those who trust in Him?

The church at Philadelphia was one of two churches about whom Jesus says nothing negative. What did Jesus commend them for?

What struggles were the church at Philadelphia dealing with? How can we hold to God's Word with patient endurance during hardship?

Who were the synagogue of Satan? How could they say they are Jews when they were not? How did Jesus promise to deal with them?

Sermon Notes

| Have a volunteer read Revelation 3:11-13

11 I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.

12 The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them 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 them my new name.

13 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

How does the reality that Jesus is coming soon affect the way we live right now?

What are some ways we hold fast to what we have in Christ? What does that look like in your own life?

What specific promises did Jesus make to those who continue in obedience to His commands out of love and faith for Him in these verses?

Jesus ends His letters to the churches with the statement “He who has an ear, let Him listen to what the Spirit says to the churches”. How would you summarize Jesus’ message to the church at Philadelphia?

The book of Revelation promises again and again, Christ is coming soon. While we eagerly await His return we hold fast to what is ours in Christ. We rest in the assurance of salvation and the promise of heaven. We work diligently to make Christ’s name known where He is not known. There is a coming day where Christ will judge all of our works. Those who have placed their faith in Him, will be judged righteous by the means of His blood. Until that day we endure and cling to the hope that we have in Him.

Sermon Notes

APPLICATION

When did Jesus open the door of heaven to you? Celebrate the precious truth that Jesus loves you and has opened heaven for you.

How is the promise of heaven comforting when we go through trials and hardship?

Do you live as though Christ is coming soon? What would change about your life if you lived every day as though Christ was coming soon?