

## *Proper Application of the Messages to the Churches in Revelation*

**All the messages apply to all of the churches. All the messages apply to each of us as individuals, and it is a matter of "if the shoes fits, wear it." That is God's approach here. We are to live by every word of God. It is only under this principle that we can apply these messages.**



### *The Church at Philadelphia*

**Revelation 3:7-13**, “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. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

### *Philadelphia...The youngest of the seven cities.*

- **Founded by colonists from Pergamum approximately 159-138 B.C. (under the reign of Attalus the 2<sup>nd</sup>)**
- **Philadelphos—one who loves his brother (City of brotherly love)...**

*One might call Philadelphia (USA)...City of brotherly love.  
Questionable character and questionable definition of love.*

- *Named after Attalus, because of his love for his brother Eumenes...so much that Attalus was called "Philadelphos".*
  - *Philadelphia was given the open door to be a mission for Greek culture and language to the surrounding cities. Now, this same city was being used as a missionary opportunity to carry the message of Jesus to all people of the area.*
  - *Location --- on the edge of a great plain called the Katahekaumena (Burned Land). The katahekaumene was a great volcanic plain bearing the marks of lava and the ashes of volcanoes. Land was fertile. Center of great grape growing area and a famous producer of wines.*
  - *17 A.D., Great earthquake...leveling 10 cities including Sardis. In Philadelphia, the tremors went on for years. Known as "a city full of earthquakes".*
  - *Because of falling buildings in the city, many built their homes on the outskirts of the city. Those that had stayed in the city, had to go outside the city area to escape the falling buildings, then return after the tremors subsided.....they well knew what the promise meant from the Risen Christ when He said, "they would go out no more."*
  - *Of all the 7 cities/churches, Philadelphia received the greatest praise...and they deserved it.*
  - *When other cities fell, Philadelphia stood...and it stood as a free Greek Christian city. To this day, a Christian Bishop is there and thousands of Christians. They have held up the banner of faith.*
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*Risen Christ is called by three (3) great titles:*

- 1. He who is holy*
- 2. He who is true*
- 3. He who has the key of David, who opens the door and no man will shut; who shuts and no man will open.*

*1. Who is Holy!*

*Holy describes God Himself*

- *Isaiah 6:3 "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of hosts."*
- *"I am the Lord your Holy one, the creator of Israel, your King (Isaiah 43:15)*
- *God, in the Old Testament is the Holy one; the Risen Christ is the Holy one....Holy means "different, separate from"*
- *Jesus Christ shares the being of God...He is without sin.*

*We can be a Holy people.....only in and through His blood!*

*Continued...Identification of the Risen Christ:*

*2. Who is True.*

*True...2 Greek words:*

- *Alethis...meaning a true statement is different from a false statement*
- *Alethinos...meaning “real” as opposed to that which is unreal.*  
*The 2<sup>nd</sup> word used here. In Jesus, there is reality.*
- *He is the holy one -- morally perfect. His character is without flaw or blemish. And he is genuine reality. He is the true one, the one behind all that really exists. That is who he is.*

*When we are confronted by Christ, we are not confronted with a shadowy outline of the truth, but with truth itself.*

### **3. Key of David...the door which is opened and no man can shut, which is shut and no man opens.**

- *Symbol of authority. Jesus, who has final authority which no one can question.*  
*It is an Old Testament picture: Isaiah 22:20-23*  
*A servant was given the key to the presence of His master and King, Hezekiah...Isaiah heard God say of this faithful servant, “And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open and man shall not shut; he shall shut and no one shall open.”*
  - *Jesus alone has the authority to admit to the New Jerusalem...the new City of David.*  
*Jesus is the new and living way into the presence of God*
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### **The Meaning of the Open Door...**

- 1. Door of Missionary Opportunity**  
*Philadelphia where it stood was the gateway to Pergamum, the capital city; Also, the gateway to Rome.*  
*Paul used this term meaning missionary opportunity:*
  - *1 Cor. 16:9, “For a wide door for effective work is opened unto me.”*
  - *Acts 14:27...When Paul came back to Antioch, he told how God had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.*
- 2. The Door is None Other Than Jesus Himself**  
*“I am the door” said Jesus. John 10:7, 9*
- 3. The Door to the Messianic Community**  
*Jesus is the door to admit those into the Kingdom of God.*  
*An open door is given when a church fulfills the conditions that will allow it to move through that door once it has been opened.*  
*Chief among those conditions is that it has discovered the power of the Spirit. It is spiritual power the Lord is talking about.*  
*It is not so much strength as it is power—power obtained by faith, that is, by expecting God to act.*
- 4. The Door is the Door of Prayer Open to Every Man.**  
*It is always open. That is a door which no man can shut....and it is the door that Jesus opened to the Father.*

### **The Promise:**

- *Those Who Keep Are Kept....*

*“Because you have kept my commandment to endure, I will keep you safe.”  
A promise to those who have endured like Jesus endured ....held to the faith.*

- *The endurance of Jesus Christ supplies us with 3 things:*
    1. *An example.....Isaiah 53:5; Hebrews 2:9; 1 Peter 3:18*
    2. *Inspiration.....Hebrews 12:12*
    3. *Guarantee of His sympathy with us when we must endure*  
*“Because He Himself has suffered and been tempted, He is able to help those who are tempted.” Hebrews 2:18*
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*The Coming of Christ is continually used in the New Testament for 2 Purposes:*

*1. As a warning to the heedless*

*Jesus... “The wicked servant took advantage of his master’s absence to conduct himself in an evil way. However, the master suddenly returned and it brought judgment...”  
(paraphrase)...Matt. 24:48-51*

*Paul warns Thessalonians of the terrible fate that awaits the disobedient and the unbelieving when the Lord shall be revealed from heaven and takes swift and final vengeance on His enemies...2 Thessalonians 1:7-9*

*Peter...warns the people that they will give an account for their deeds to Him who comes to judge the living and the dead...1 Peter 4:5*

*2. As a comfort to the oppressed.*

*James urges “patient endurance on his people because the coming of the Lord is drawing near.”....Soon their distresses will end.....James 5:8*

*Writer of Hebrews urges patience, for soon He that shall come will come...Hebrews 10:37*

*Hold what you have, that no one will take your crown*

*Not the thought of someone stealing it, but God taking it from them and giving it to someone else, because they were not worthy to wear it.*

*.....List of people in the Bible who lost their place to someone else because they were not fit to hold it...*

- *Esau lost his place to Jacob*
- *Reuben lost his place to Judah*
- *Saul lost his place to David*
- *Shebna lost his place to Eliakim*
- *Judas lost his place to Matthias*

***Question of the hour: Have you been given a task to do by God and because of your failure someone else has been given that task?***

***Philadelphia...He Who Overcomes....***

- ***The faithful Christian will be a pillar in the Temple of God.***  
*"A pillar of the Church is a great and honored support."*  
*--James, Peter, and John were pillars of the early church in Jerusalem (Galatians 2:9)*
- ***The faithful Christian "will go out no more"***  
***Could mean:***
  - ✓ *The promise of security....earthquakes?? You won't have to leave the city. You are secure.*
  - ✓ *You won't have to battle the forces of evil any more....Jesus will do it for you!*
- ***Jesus Christ will write upon the faithful Christian the name of his God.***  
*....When a priest died in cities of Asia Minor...and in Philadelphia, they would erect a new pillar in the Temple in which he served...and would inscribe his name and father's name upon it.*
- ***On the faithful Christian the name of the New Jerusalem is to be written.***  
*Meaning...you will be a citizen in the City of God.*  
*Ezekiel 48:35 states the name of the new re-created city is "the Lord is there."*  
*Citizens of the city where there is always the presence of God...*  
*Rev. 21*
- ***On the faithful Christian Christ will write His own new name....***  
*No man knows it. (Revelation 19:12)*

***"H I S"***

***Meaning Holy, Infinite Savior...***

***Infinite = Beyond measure or comprehension; very great, inexhaustible.***

