

The Church of Faithfulness

(Revelation 3:7-13)

Introduction:

1. Philadelphia is known as the city of brotherly love.
2. The Lord's church meeting at Philadelphia may better be known as the faithful congregation of the seven churches of Asia.

I. What do we know about Philadelphia?

- A. The city of brotherly-love was located 25 miles south of Sardis.
- B. Philadelphia is the youngest of the seven cities. (The city was founded in 159 B.C.)
 1. It was founded by Attalus II Philadelphus, king of Pergamos.
 2. It was also the most recently rebuilt of the seven cities.
- C. Philadelphia was known as "the little Athens" and an outpost of the Greek culture.
- D. Philadelphia had such fertile land the wine was produced.
 1. Due to this fact, the Greek god Dionysus was worshiped.

II. What did Jesus say to Philadelphia?

- A. Jesus had opened a door to the congregation. (Revelation 3:8)
- B. They had little strength. (Revelation 3:8)
- C. They had kept the faith. (Revelation 3:8)
- D. They had not denied the name of Christ. (Revelation 3:8)
- E. He will make those who are of the Synagogue of Satan worship at their feet. (Revelation 3:9)
- F. Those of the synagogue of Satan will know that Christ loves the Christians of Philadelphia. (Revelation 3:9)
- G. Christ will hold them through the hour of trial. (Revelation 3:10)
- H. Christ continues to encourage the church to hold fast (Revelation 3:11)
- I. He further tells them the reward for those who will overcome the world. (Revelation 3:12)
- J. Listen (Revelation 3:13)

III. How can our congregation be like Philadelphia?

- A. We need to hold faithful the word. (1 Corinthians 16:13)
 1. Our faithfulness (individually and congregationally) will result in rewards beyond our imagination.
- B. We need to never deny the name of Christ. (Matthew 10:32,33)
 1. This means we proclaim His name. (1 Corinthians 1:18-25)
- C. Christ provides open doors no matter our strength or our size.
 1. The church at Philadelphia had little strength left, but they had an open door presented to them. (Revelation 3:8)
 2. Paul mentions his open door (opportunity) in 2 Corinthians 2:12-13.
 3. We must be prepared to take advantage of our opportunities.

Conclusion:

1. Will you strive to hold fast to the faith (Jude 3) and to walk in the light (1 John 1:7)?
2. Those who overcome will receive blessings beyond imagination. What will you receive?