

Seven Churches Of Asia Series:

Philadelphia: The Faithful Church

Rev. 3:7-13

Introduction:

- A. Philadelphia:
 - 1. City named after its founder: King Attalus II Philadelphus of Pergamos (159-138 B.C.)
 - 2. About 28 miles SE of Sardis.
 - 3. A center of Greek Culture.
- B. Let us notice the various parts of this letter:

Discussion:

I. The Description of Christ In This Letter (v. 7)

- A. "Holy" - In character and life. (1 Pet. 2:22,23; Heb. 4:15; Rev. 4:8)
- B. "True" - Was the truth. (John 14:6)
 - 1. Unlike man at funeral: "Truth never came out."
 - 2. Nothing hypocritical or sham about Him.
- C. "Has the key of David."
 - 1. Keys symbolize authority.
 - 2. Authority on David's throne. (Acts 2:29-35; 1 Cor. 15:23-25)

II. The Condition Of The Church At Philadelphia.

- A. Her good points:
 - 1. "An open door." (v. 8) - Great opportunity to evangelize.
 - 2. "A little strength" - God can do lot with little.
 - a. Gideon's reduced Army. (Judges 6)
 - b. Moses' rod. (Ex. 4:1-5; 9:23; 10:13; Ex. 17:9).
 - c. Shamgar's Oxgoad. (Judges 3:31)
 - d. David's sling and stone. (1 Sam 17:50)
 - 3. "Kept My word." (cf. John 14:23)
 - 4. "Have not denied my name." - even in midst of pagan and hostile society.
- B. No bad points - rather vindicated. (v. 9)

III. The Advice To The Church At Philadelphia.

- A. To be kept from trial. (v. 10; cf. 1 Cor. 10:13)
- B. Hold fast to keep crown. (v. 11; cf. 1 Cor. 15:2)
- C. A pillar in the temple of God. (v. 12) - Permanent and secure.
 - 1. Will go out no more.
 - 2. Three names written on him.

Conclusion:

- A. Even weak and struggling churches important to God.
- B. Will you be pillar in God's temple?