

# SERMON NOTES

## The 7 Churches of Revelation – 6 Philadelphia

This is the Church of open doors.

<p><b>Revelation 3:7-13 (NKJV)</b> - 7 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write,</p> <p>'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens ":</p> <p>8 "I know your works... See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for ...</p> <p>you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.</p> <p>9 "Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie--indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.</p> <p>10 "Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.</p> <p>11 "Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.</p> <p>12 "He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. 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 I will write on him My new name.</p> <p>13 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." '</p>	<p>"Little Athens" - Greeks &amp; Jews</p> <p>Holy, true - only God</p> <p><b>KEYS</b> and <b>DOORS</b>. (SEE BELOW)</p> <p>He knows our works and looks at them because they reveal our hearts.</p> <p>He set an open door - what <b>OPEN DOORS</b> do we have?</p> <p>He opens doors for these 3 reasons...</p> <p>There is opposition but we persevere and trust HIM to deal with them. We must bless them and love them.</p> <p><b>PERSEVERE</b> –</p> <p>There are <b>CROWNS</b> coming. Imperishable, rejoicing, righteousness, glory, life <b>CROWNS</b> can be taken.</p> <p><b>OVERCOME</b> - Pillar - <u>1 Tim 3:15</u> - Church = Pillar No more going out (no more doors) "Gates always open"</p> <p><b>Names</b> - Identity - God, Heaven, Jesus' new name, (your new name <u>Rev 2:17</u>)</p> <p><b>LISTEN &amp; HEAR</b></p>
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**CROWNS** - the imperishable crown (1 Corinthians 9:24-25), the crown of rejoicing (1 Thessalonians 2:19), the crown of righteousness (2 Timothy 4:8), the crown of glory (1 Peter 5:4), and the crown of life (Revelation 2:10).

<p><b>KEYS</b> - tools that let us open or close something we are powerless to affect otherwise</p>	<p><b>DOORS</b> - barriers that prevent or allow things to get in or out, and they can allow us to transition to a new reality</p>
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1) <b>Key</b> of death and hades that Jesus has taken - <u>Rev 1:18</u>	Jn 10:9 " <u>I am the door</u> . If anyone enters by Me, he will be <u>saved</u>
2) <b>Keys</b> of the kingdom (Matt 16) He has given to the church - leads to ...Binding and loosing the devil's work, unlocking people from Satan's power, releasing the kingdom	2 "But he who enters by the <b>door</b> is the <u>shepherd</u> of the sheep. 9 " <u>I am the door</u> . If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and <u>will go in and out and find pasture</u> ."
3) <b>Key</b> of David that Jesus holds - leading to...Open doors / closed doors - Troas etc	2 "But he who enters by the door is the <u>shepherd</u> of the sheep. 3 "To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

### **OPEN DOORS** - Opportunities for the gospel.

#### a. His Guidance –

Acts 16:6-10 (NKJV) - 6 Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia.

7 After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them.

8 So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas.

9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

10 Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.

#### b. Troas - they require teamwork - seldom alone.

2 Cor 2:12-13 (NKJV) - 12 Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened to me by the Lord,

13 I had no rest in my spirit, because I did not find Titus my brother; but taking my leave of them, I departed for Macedonia.

#### c. Rome - pray for open doors.

Col 4:2-6 (NKJV) - 3 meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains,

#### d. Ephesus -

1 Cor 16:9 (NKJV)- For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries. - they come with opposition. "Many adversaries." This door had previously been closed to Paul (Acts 16:6)

#### e. Rev 3 vs 8 - Jesus will open doors because..."you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. "

### **THE GREAT COMMISSION & YOUR OPPORTUNITIES TODAY** -

a. The Great Commission is what God is all about

b. What opportunities do you have? Resources, time, openings, favour, relationships, connectivity, peace and rule of law, freedom of speech etc

c. We Don't Know how long they will last. Are you using them?

Matthew 16:18-19 (NKJV) - 18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My **church**, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

19 "And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Matthew 28:18-20 (NKJV)- 18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

# SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDES

Remember that the aim of the small group is to foster discussion and community, rather than for the leader or one individual to preach to everyone.

**1** - Often an **Icebreaker question** is a great way to start discussion. You could ask a question like:

- What were the highs or lows of your week?
- What is your earliest memory?
- If you had to describe yourself as one animal, what would it be and why?
- What is your favourite type of holiday destination?

**2** - Next, **read the passage**. You can ask various people in the group to help by each reading a portion of the passage.

**3** - These are the **main questions** to ask to understand the passage:

- What is the main message of this talk / passage?  
Allow discussion and even diverging from the main topic if it is helpful.
- What did you find particularly helpful or challenging?
- What did you not fully understand?
- What can we do **PRACTICALLY** in response to this teaching?

**4** - Close by offering **prayer** for each person.

- Ask, "how can we pray for you / each other now?"
- Ask each person to pray or you, as leader, pray for each person's need

**The blessing** and opportunity in Small Groups is the possibility for...

- Each person to contribute and/or ask questions,
- People to pray for each other and to ask for prayer,
- People to learn to use and grow in their gifts,
- Community, friendship, and intimacy in relationships.

God Bless you in this very important ministry.