



Sermon Series: Revelation - Jesus Revealed
Sermon Title: Philadelphia – Loyal & Beloved
Scripture: Revelation 3:7-13
Stephen Schultze
Sunday, August 27, 2023

The City of Philadelphia

- Named after Attalus “Philadelphus,” who earned the nickname for his loyalty to his brother.
- Served as a gateway to the highlands along the Persian Royal Road from Sardis to Susa (Iran).
- Situated in a river valley subject to volcanic activity and frequent, destructive earthquakes.

The Letter to the Church in Philadelphia

1. Jesus is the sovereign, authoritative **head** of His church. (v. 7)

- **The Holy One** (Acts 2:27; John 17:11; Isa 1:4, 5:19, 5:24, 10:7, 12:6)
- **The True One** (1 John 5:20)
- **Has the Key of David** (Isaiah 22:22)

2. Jesus provides a joyous opportunity to the **faithful** church. (v. 8-9)

- **“Open door”** (Acts 14:27; 1 Corinthians 16:9; 2 Corinthians 2:12; Colossians 4:3)
- **“Say they are Jews...”** (Romans 2:28-29)

3. Jesus Christ is the all-powerful **guardian** of His faithful church. (v. 10)

- **“kept from the hour of trial”** (Rev. 7:14; Matt. 24:21; Jeremiah 30:7)
- **“those who dwell upon the earth”** (Rev. 6:10; 8:13; 11:10; 13:8, 14)

4. Jesus promises an eternal **presence** & **significance** to His faithful church.

“One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.” (Psalm 27:4)

Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...

1. How does Christ's self-revelation in verse 7 convey important aspects of His identity? How does knowing this bring comfort and encouragement for navigating our present culture?
2. Why is it significant that Jesus acknowledged the "little power" of the Philadelphian church? How does this acknowledgment relate to the promises given to conquerors in verses 11-12?
3. In what ways did the Philadelphian church demonstrate their faithfulness?
4. In what ways do believers, including yourself, sometimes experience feelings of insignificance or lack of power? How does this passage inspire you to persevere and remain steadfast?
5. What is the significance of being "kept from the hour of trial"? How can we interpret this promise in both the context of their time and our contemporary and future circumstances?
6. Why do you think Jesus' promise, "I am coming soon," has resonated with Christians throughout history? Do you personally reflect on this promise frequently? If so, why? If not, why?