

## 7 Churches of Revelation

### Philadelphia - The Competent Church

#### Revelation 3:7-13

How do we show the confidence we have in Christ?

For the early church it was brotherly love. **John 13:35**

#### Intro to Philadelphia

The name means “brotherly love” or “brother lover” it was named for the love of Attalus for his brother Eumenes. It is the youngest of the seven churches and was founded as a “missionary” city of Greek cultural. Founded by Hellenistic Jews and was deemed “Little Athens for its beauty. It was an area noted for earthquakes - very unstable. Also noted for the athletic games - where crowns of victory were won.

#### I. Christ - *He who is Holy, True and has the key of David* **7**

The titles refer to the authority and sovereignty of Christ

##### A. Holy one is a title for God - **Revelation 4:8 and 6:10**

It is also used to describe Christ in **Revelation 19:11 and 1 John 2:20**

##### B. True refers to True Messiah - the one who is genuine

Also used as referring to God in **Revelation 6:10**

Jesus referred to Himself as the Truth in **John 14:6**

##### C. Key of David - quote from **Isaiah 22:22**

Jesus promised to his followers the Keys to heaven- to open or shut

#### II. Commendation - *You have kept my Word* **8-9**

##### A. You have kept my Word

In the midst of pagan culture and strong opposition from Jews  
Kept means to stay true and obey without compromise

##### B. You have not denied my Name

Name refers to the very character of God Himself

##### 1. The result was an open door

Either meaning a door of evangelism - **1Corinthians 16:9**

Or a door open to heaven **Revelation 4:1**

##### 2. Others would acknowledge that they were loved by God

Satan’s synagogue - liars - not true followers of Abraham

Paul explained in Galatians chapter 3 that follower of Christ are the true followers of Abraham - true Jews **Galatians 3:29**

#### III. Complaint - *None*

**Little strength** - Not weakness but rather small in number

They were small in number but greatly used of God

#### IV. Counsel - *Hold fast what you have* **10-11**

##### A. Protect the truth - as you are doing

I will protect you could have two meanings

-From the persecution they were experiencing due to faith

-From the final tribulation that would come upon the world

##### B. Wait patiently - I am coming soon

We do not know the day or hour Christ will return

He is always ready to come to those who seek Him

##### C. Hold Fast what you have - faith that overcomes the world

Hold fast till the end - don’t drop the baton

No one can take your crown of victory from you

#### V. Compensation - *A pillar of the temple, not go out, name of my God*

##### A. Pillar in the temple of God

Means strength, stability and beauty

##### B. Go out no more - security in Christ

Cast out from Synagogue, marketplace but not from God

##### C. Name of my God (and my city Jerusalem)

Identification that they belong to God Himself

##### D. My new name **Philippians 2:9-10**

His Name is Conqueror, King of Kings and Lord of Lords

#### VI. Crux

1. Jesus is the True and Holy genuine Messiah

2. He is the one who opens doors of ministry - shuts doors of temptations

3. He promises powerful results to all who remain true

4. The reward of faithfulness is to be totally identified with Christ

#### How are we to accomplish the task before us?

##### A. Protect the truth

*Study the Word to know the truth*

*Allow the Holy Spirit to lead you into truth*

##### B. Wait patiently

*Remember you are loved!*

*Keep your focus on Christ -the goal*

##### C. Hold fast what you have

*Stay in contact with Him through prayer*

*Search for those to whom to “pass the baton”*

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