



May 16, 2010

Celebration Service
Sunday 8:45 am

Pastor David Mitchell

The Church of Love { Philadelphia } Revelation 3:7-13

Why Christ will say to a church, I have loved you

- ❖ **We submit to Christ as sovereign ruler over us.** vs. 7
“who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens”
- ❖ **We seek open doors to spread God’s Word.** vs. 8
“Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut,”
Open door facts: Acts 14:27; I Corinthians 16:8, 9; II Corinthians 2:12, 13; Colossians 4:2, 3
- ❖ **We recognize that only God’s power makes us strong.** vs. 8
“...because you have a little power”
How our weakness makes us strong: II Corinthians 12:10; II Corinthians 3:5, 6
- ❖ **We remain faithful to the Word and Jesus Christ.** vs. 8
“...and have kept My word, and have not denied My name.”
John 14:23, 24
- ❖ **We live victoriously over our true enemy, Satan.**
“...know who is behind those who are against us ‘Behold, I will cause those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—I will make them come and bow down at your feet”
I John 4:4
- ❖ **We trust in God’s protection from the hour of testing.** vs. 10
“I also will keep you from the hour of testing,”
This test is limited in time, worldwide in impact to reveal the true hearts of people on earth.
- ❖ **We “hold fast” our faith until Christ returns.** vs. 11
“I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have”

Our promise when we live this way:

12 ‘He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and 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 My new name. 13 ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’

Pillar = Stability and Honor in His Temple

Name of My God = Significance and ownership by God.

Name of the city of My God = Citizenship eternally in heaven.

Digging Deeper

When ever God calls us to enter His open doors, He gives us the strength and resources to make it happen. That was true in Philadelphia when John said they have “little power” and yet they were commended as the church that Christ loves. No other church could claim that commendation. This was a healthy growing church at a crucial cross roads for spreading the gospel with the “open door” that God provided.

A great example of God’s power when we are weak is when God’s people returned to Judah to rebuild the temple and walls in Jerusalem. The only way they would succeed is by the hand of the LORD God upon them. I include all these verses that reflect their complete dependency on God because they were with “little power” except for God’s provision. Consider where you have “little power” and ask the Lord to put His mighty hand on your life and circumstances.

Ezra 7 In restoring the Temple in Jerusalem by 515 BC

6 This Ezra went up from Babylon, and he was a scribe skilled in the Law of Moses, which the LORD God of Israel had given; and the king granted him all he requested because the hand of the LORD his God was upon him.

9 For on the first of the first month he began to go up from Babylon; and on the first of the fifth month he came to Jerusalem, because the good hand of his God was upon him.

27 Blessed be the LORD, the God of our fathers, who has put such a thing as this in the king’s heart, to adorn the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem, 28 and has extended lovingkindness to me before the king and his counselors and before all the king’s mighty princes. Thus I was strengthened according to the hand of the LORD my God upon me, and I gathered leading men from Israel to go up with me.

Ezra 8

18 According to the good hand of our God upon us they brought us a man of insight of the sons of Mahli, the son of Levi, the son of Israel, namely Sherebiah, and his sons and brothers, 18 men;

22 For I was ashamed to request from the king troops and horsemen to protect us from the enemy on the way, because we had said to the king, “The hand of our God is favorably disposed to all those who seek Him, but His power and His anger are against all those who forsake Him.”

23 So we fasted and sought our God concerning this matter, and He listened to our entreaty.

31 Then we journeyed from the river Ahava on the twelfth of the first month to go to Jerusalem; and the hand of our God was over us, and He delivered us from the hand of the enemy and the ambushes by the way.

Nehemiah 2 In restoring the walls of Jerusalem around 444 BC

8 and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king’s forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the fortress which is by the temple, for the wall of the city and for the house to which I will go.” And the king granted them to me because the good hand of my God was on me.

18 I told them how the hand of my God had been favorable to me and also about the king’s words which he had spoken to me. Then they said, “Let us arise and build.” So they put their hands to the good work.



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