

Questions for further study and application from Revelation 3:7-13

The Jews in this part of the world were violently persecuting the church and instigating the Romans to do so (See Rev. 2:10,14). The Jews were claiming they were God's people and Christians would never see God's kingdom but be condemned by God. The church at Philadelphia was constantly aware of their powerlessness to change their suffering or the hearts of those around them.

1. In 3:7 what two attributes does Jesus claim about Himself? What is Jesus claiming by calling Himself the Holy One?
2. Why do you think Jesus reminded this church and wants Grace Church to remember His absolute holiness and truthfulness? What implications does knowing this about Jesus have for you today?
3. Read 3:7. Jesus tells them He has the 'Key of David' which is another way of saying the key to the kingdom of God. This means He controls the opening and shutting of doors related to people coming into it. Why do you think the Lord wanted this church to know this? How would it comfort them?
4. Read 3:8-9. How does Jesus reveal that HE is sovereign and has all authority? What has He put before the Philadelphian church? What will the 'open door' (3:8) result in (in 3:9)? What affect do you think this had on this church when they read these words from Jesus?
5. NOTE: Jesus saying He has put an open door before them indicates, that contrary to the Jews and Romans persecution, the door of God's kingdom is open to the believers at Philadelphia and no amount of cultural animosity will close it. THEY are going to heaven! Why do you think Jesus wanted them to know this? How does Jesus' assurance of your being in Heaven with Him affect you? How does it comfort you when being persecuted or suffering?
6. What are three things Jesus commended this church for in 3:8?
7. Why do you think the Lord commends them for having 'little power'? What attitude does this indicate they had?
8. What are wrong ways of viewing our weaknesses? What is the right way to view our weakness. What does 2 Corinthians 12:8-10 tell us is the right way to see our weakness and suffering?
9. In 3:8 Jesus commends them because they have 'kept My word and not denied My name'? What do you think this means? What was this weak church focused on during their trials? What do we learn should be our focus? What does 2 Corinthians 5:9 say about this?
10. What does Jesus say He will do for them in 3:10? This may be His promise to keep Christians *from* the Great Tribulation or to keep them *through* it, Regardless, what is the overall point Jesus is making to His people? Why would it be important to know this?
11. What does Jesus want them to know in 3:11?
Jesus' promise is not an *immediate* return but an *imminent* return. *Imminent* means He is promising to come at any time. It could be right away or in the future. Read 2 Peter 3:3-4. Does it matter whether you view Christ's coming as imminent? Why? What does Titus 2:11-13 say about this?
12. On a scale of 1-10, to what degree do you living in light of the imminent return of Christ? Describe how you are affected when you take seriously Christ's imminent return.
13. What things tempt you to forget Christ's imminent return?
14. Read Rev. 3:12. What promises does Jesus make to the Philadelphian church? Read Revelation 21:1-7, 22-23; 22:3-4. What else does Jesus promise His people? What is the most precious or comforting of these promises to you?
15. How has the Lord encouraged or stirred you from His words in Revelation 3:7-13?