

THE JESUS FILES – PART VI
“Philadelphia – The Missions Church”
Revelation 3:7-13

God is a God of opportunities. He is all powerful possessing infinite wisdom and he opens and closes doors of opportunities for us. When the Lord’s people see an open door before them they need to walk through that door in obedience, trusting the Lord to guide, direct and bring about fruitful results. Jesus holds the key to doors of opportunities. As we go through life we need to be looking for doors that God is opening for us.

#1. JESUS IS THE _____ TO THE KINGDOM, v. 7

- A. Jesus is the Holy One
- B. Jesus is the True One
- C. Jesus holds the key of David (Isa 22:22, Matt 16:19, John 20:21-23)
- D. Jesus opens doors that no one can shut
- E. Jesus closes doors that no one can open

#2. JESUS IS LORD OF _____ – HE OPENED A DOOR FOR THEM, v. 8

- A. Jesus knows their deeds
- B. Jesus opened a door for them (Acts 14:27, Eph 5:16, 1 Cor 16:9, 2 Cor 2:12, Col 4:3)
- C. Jesus’ open door(s) can’t be shut

#3. JESUS DOES NOT _____ CHURCHES BY THE SAME _____ AS THE WORLD & THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY, v. 8

- D. You have little strength (*Gr. dunamis*)
- E. You have kept My word – they are faithful to Jesus
- F. You have not denied my Name – they witnessed in a hostile environment
- G. You have kept my command to endure patiently

#4. JESUS WILL PROVE THE PERSECUTORS OF HIS PEOPLE TO BE _____, v. 9

- A. The Jews are a synagogue of Satan – Jews (Revelation 2:9)
- B. Their claim to be Jews is false (Romans 2:28-29)
- C. They will fall at your feet & acknowledge I loved you, Phil 2:9-11
- D. The example of Saul of Tarsus - the Pharisee

APPLICATION POINTS

- A. What door(s) has God opened for us at _____?
- B. What door(s) has God opened for _____?
- C. When God opens a door we must _____ walk through it by _____
- D. What ways can you _____ for open doors?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- #1. Discuss the significance of Jesus holding the key of David. Refer to Isaiah 22:22 and discuss its meaning.
- #2. Read Matthew 16:19 and discuss how it relates to believers in Christ today. (cf. John 20:21-23)
- #3. One principle of Bible interpretation is letting Scripture interpret Scripture. Look at other occurrences in the Bible (listed on the outline) and discuss their meaning.
- #4. Jesus has placed an open door before the church at Philadelphia. What do you think the open door was?
- #5. Discuss how God opens doors of opportunities for us and how we should respond to the same.
- #6. What are some of the metrics by which the world and the Christian community judge churches?
- #7. What did Jesus mean when he said that the church had little strength? (v. 8)
- #8. What other positive things did Jesus say about them? (v. 8b)
- #9. What was the nature of the persecution they were enduring? (v. 9, Rev 2:9, Romans 2:28-29)
- #10. What is your takeaway from this passage?

Welcome

to

Hillcrest Church

Love, Acceptance & Forgiveness

These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.

Revelation 3:7

October 1, 2023

Pastor Bruce Guckelberg, PhD

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY

Pastor Bruce will be speaking on the church at Philadelphia, as he continues his series “The Jesus Files.” We will also be gathering at the Lord’s table in celebration of Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

ONLINE GATHERINGS

The Prayer Meeting: Tuesday at 7pm with Pastor Tim Brooks

The Bible study: Wednesday at 6:30 – 7:45pm with Pastor Bruce. Go to the online meeting room on our website (hillcrestRoseville.com) to access either gathering. If you have a need for prayer don’t hesitate to call Pastor Tim Brooks at (916) 872-5207 or email: timnealbr@gmail.com

NEXT SATURDAY WORKDAY – FALL CLEANING

Saturday, October 7th from 9am – noon we are gathering to do some cleaning and maintenance on the facility. We would appreciate your help. Snacks will be served.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Our offering box is in the back of the sanctuary. You can place your tithes and offerings there, or you can visit our website and give online (hillcrestroseville.com). Consider giving to the building fund so we can continue to upgrade our facility.

In order to replace the roof and do our electrical upgrades we had to borrow some money. Our debt is \$19,896, which we would like to eliminate ASAP. Would you prayerfully consider giving a little extra to pay off the loan so we can be debt free and avoid paying interest.

BAPTISM

If you would like to be baptized see pastor Bruce

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

If you are interested in becoming a member of Hillcrest Church please indicate your interest by signing up and we will set a date for the class.

THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

Philadelphia was the newest of all the cities mentioned in the book of Revelation. It was founded by Attalus II Philadelphus, who intended the city to be a center for the spread of Greek language and culture. The city’s name commemorates the loyalty that he had to his brother.

The city was located at the intersection of several trade routes that earned her the title “Gateway to the East.” The city had a mission to spread the Greek language and culture to the regions east of their setting. Given her strategic location, she became a fortress city experiencing much prosperity because of their industrial and agricultural base, well supported by the fertile plains to the north.

The major drawback was that the region was subject to earthquakes, one of which came in AD 17 and leveled 12 cities in Asia in one night. The city was rebuilt with considerable help from Rome.

Famous for its many temples and religious festivals, Philadelphia became known as “little Athens.” Nothing is really known about the founding of the church there.

This church was under considerable persecution from the Jewish population that Jesus identified as a synagogue of Satan. The Philadelphian believers were faithful to the Lord, they didn’t deny his name by falling away from the faith, and they endured the hostility with patience. This church was very small and without much influence in their city, but Jesus opened a door of opportunity for them.