



## CHRIST'S EVALUATION OF HIS CHURCH "Big-Heartedness in the Church" Revelation 3:7-13

No. 1494

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Philadelphia ("Brotherly Love") was a border city situated on a major highway where Mysia, Lydia and Phrygia met. It was "the gateway from one continent to another" (Barclay). The church, therefore, had no difficulty understanding "the open door" Christ had set before them.

### I. A Vision of Christ. v. 7

#### A. The Holy One.

1. A statement of deity. Isaiah 40:25; Mark 1:24
2. A statement of sovereignty. Revelation 6:10

#### B. The True One.

1. True as in genuine.
2. True as in faithful.

#### C. The holder of the key. See Isaiah 22:15-25

1. The rejection of Shebna.
2. The downfall of Eliakim.
3. The ascendancy of Christ.
  - a. Holding the key to the kingdom. See Matthew 16:19
  - b. Opening doors of blessing and opportunity.
  - c. When He opens, door can't be closed.
  - d. When He closes, door can't be opened.

### II. A Vision of the World. vv. 8-10

#### A. The world and the church's mission.

1. The open door of mission opportunity. See 1 Corinthians 16:9; 2 Corinthians 2:12
2. The relative weakness of the church.
3. The irresistible power/authority of Christ.

#### B. The world and the church's opposition.

1. Opposition from religious motives.
2. Opposition being countered and overcome.

#### C. The world and the church's tribulation.

1. Times of trial and testing. See 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12
2. The church will be kept from/through this time.

### III. A Vision of the Future. vv. 11-13

#### A. Christ will come soon. cf. Revelation 2:5,16; 3:3

1. So hold on.
2. Stand firm.

#### B. Christ will bless the overcomers.

1. They will be pillars.
2. They will be able to stay secure—e.g. earthquakes.
3. They will receive inscriptions.
  - a. Name of my God—belonging to God. See Exodus 28:36-38
  - b. Name of new Jerusalem—citizenship of heaven.
  - c. New name of Christ—e.g. Neocaesarea.