

## **A Church w/o Rebuke**

### **Revelation 3:7-13**

*7 “To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: 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.*

Angel-angelos-messenger or pastor. Philadelphia historical time 1750-1925  
Great awakening: Missionary era--China Inland Mission--Salvation Army--  
Student Volunteer Movement...time of Wesley, Whitefield, Edward, Finney,  
Moody, Spurgeon..Establishment of Christian Universities-Princeton,  
Columbia, Dartmouth, Rutgers, Brown—to become better Christians

A Church w/o rebuke – P. youngest of seven in Asia Minor 28 mi SE Sardis on strategic route Rome to East—Roman guard post ‘*Gateway to the East*’- colonist from Pergamum during King Attalus II reign 159-138 BC named city for great love A. had for brother Eumenes--affectionately called Philadelphos ‘*one who loves his brother*’ So to memorialize that love the city named Philadelphia. Now ‘*church of brotherly love*’. Labeled ‘Little Athen’ for many pagan temples.

Built on geological fault-flat summit on Volcanic range. Many earthquakes 17 BC destroyed along w/ Sardis & 10 cities. Citizens afraid to move back into city...stayed outside in tents. ‘Unsafe in city of brotherly love’

***Ps 42: So we will not fear when earthquakes come and the mountains crumble into the sea.*** Emperor Tiberius help rebuild. City located in heart of great vineyard district w/ booming business in wine—*Bacchus* god of wine & drink worshiped *w/ many followers as today*...I come from long line a Bacchus worshipers. Alcoholism in epic proportions in city

Also had a large Jewish community that persecuted Christians.

Jesus comes a one who is Holy and True

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*Holy*- description of God Himself--title of Jehovah-**deity** –Is 6:3 Saraphim crying Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of His glory’ OT reference to God **set apart** – Jesus *Lk 1:35 The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.*

*True* - *Jn 18:37,38...Pilate said to Him, “So You are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say correctly that I am a king. For this purpose I have been born, and for this I have come into the world: to testify to the **truth**. Everyone who is of the **truth** listens to My voice.” 38 Pilate \*said to Him, “What is truth?”*

Philosophy of day ridiculed any universal basis for truth *1Cor1:22,23 For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; 23 but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness,*

Jesus said *I am way, truth and the life...Jn 14:6.... True* –real, genuine, not a copy, nothing false, one of a kind—many false gods w/o truth.

*Key of David-Isaiah 22:15-25* keys-treasurer of David’s house. Hezekiah’s faithful servant Eliakim over His household and alone uninterrupted access to Kings presence. ‘And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David; he shall open & no one shut--he shut & no one open (**sovereign in kingdom**) Paul *1Cor16:9 for a wide door for effective service has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.*

Eliakim type of Jesus Christ who is over all house of God the Father.

Prophecy of ruler-ship, authority over all kingdoms of world. Jesus has *Rev 1:18 keys of death and of Hades*

Application for believers--Ministry opportunities open & shut when follow Jesus. Devil has no power to keep you from it...**greater is He in you...**

*8 I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. 9 I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. 10 Since you have*

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*kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.*

*Open door* – ministry yes but also to heaven at Rapture *ch 4 come up here*

*Little power*-not big numbers or resources or worldly influence, but do have a little *dunamis* ‘dynamite’—it helps or hinders, creates or destroys—We do work of Lord in power He supplies. If my own power frustration and discouragement – feel like a failure. *Eph 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Power perfected in weakness...*we say get stronger God says stay weak *2 Cor 12:9 And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me.*

*Kept word* – secret of having *little power* – *to watch, guard from loss or injury—keeping an eye on* *Heb 4:12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

*Not denied* – by disowning person....from seminaries to pulpit denying deity & word..Steadfast, immovable in word and person of Christ

*Synagogue Satan...claim Jews* *Jn 8:44 “You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies.*

Whoever & whatever rejects Christ & His word is a *synagogue of Satan*  
*Even those w/ pedigree-- Rom 9:6 For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel; 7neither are they all children because they are Abraham’s descendants--Rom 4:16 those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all,*

*Fall at your feet* – *Phil 2:10 that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

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Kept from tribulation – *1Thes 5:9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, Luke 21: 31“Even so you, too, when you see these things begin to take place, recognize that the kingdom of God is near. 32 “Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all things take place. 33 “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. 34 “Be on guard, that your hearts may not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day come on you suddenly like a trap; 35 for it will come upon all those who dwell on the face of all the earth. 36 “But keep on the alert at all times, praying in order that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”*

*11 I am coming soon/quickly. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. 12 The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name*

*Soon* w/o delay, by surprise—Rapidly—once it begins-like dominos. Stay steady hold to the faith...so world, flesh, devil not take crown of victory for patiently enduring and overcoming all thrown in way to trip up-turn away

*Pillar* Holds up due to material & integrity of structure...important in land of earthquakes—Also beauty & stability-- in heaven no shaking only stability & security of our position in Christ. *Never leave* – place of permanence & protection a contrast to this world

*Names God & New Jerusalem & Jesus new name*- Inscriptions usually honoring great people. His name on us. Marks of identification—who we belong to. Marks of favor and esteem because of special relationship and privilege others don't have.

*“Philadelphia honored its illustrious sons by putting their names on the pillars of its temples, so that all who came to worship might see and remember.” Wm Barclay*

*13 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the Churches.*

**Praise** & exhortation to hear w/ determination to do-obey Jesus & His word.