

When Jesus Comes To Church

7) The Church With An Open Door

'And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, "These things says He who is holy, He who is true, He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens: "I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name"'

(Rev.3:7-8)

**To the faithful, who trust in God's strength,
God opens doors**

- ✓ **An open door is an opportunity for the gospel**
- ✓ **When He opens a door there will be opposition and attempts to close it. But none can shut it.**
'Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles' (Acts 14:27)
- ✓ **Sometimes doors are closed because He has closed them, e.g. Asia and Bithynia. These doors were closed because another door was about to open for them**
- ✓ **Then later he said of Ephesus, the capital of Asia, 'But I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost. For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries' (1 Cor.16:8-9). So the door which had been closed to him once was opened to him later by the Lord**

- **Opposition may be an indication that God is about to do something big. The Chinese word for 'crisis' is a combination of two symbols for 'danger' and 'opportunity.' William Carey**
- **God opens doors in answer to prayer**
'...meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains' (Col.4:3). **Paul was imprisoned, yet he was not asking for prayer for release so that he could preach, but that a door would be opened to him right there. The seeming disadvantage was in reality an advantage**

- ***'Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him' (Acts 28:30-31)***
- ***'But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill' (Phil.1:12-15)***

- **Jesus opens doors in response to faithfulness**
'See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you' (Rev.3:8-9)
- **This is speaking of salvation. The word translated 'bow down' appears 23 other times in Revelation, and in all cases the worship appear voluntary. See also 1 Cor.14:24-25**
- **An open door is given to them because of their faithfulness in keeping God's Word during this time of trial. 'He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much'**

- ***'Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth' (Rev.3:10)***
- **The whole world will be in the grip of a major catastrophe prior to His return known as the Day of the LORD. Christians will escape this, because Christ endured God's wrath for us**
- **The phrase *'those who dwell on the earth'* is used 9 times in Revelation, and speaks of those who are not saved. Though we walk on this earth, our dwelling place is in heaven. We have been seated in heavenly places in Jesus (Eph.2:6; Col.3:3)**

'Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown'

(Rev.3:11)

Not a crown of royalty, that is given because of royal birth, but a crown of victory

'He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. 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 I will write on him My new name'

(Rev.3:12)

***Philadelphia suffered from numerous earthquakes. When a building collapsed, often all that remained standing were the huge pillars. An overcomer in Christ remains standing when all else crumbles**

***Earthquake tremors meant that the people often fled from the city into the open country. Then, when all was quiet again, they returned. They were always going out and coming in. But Jesus promised they would go out no more**

****'I will write on him My new name'*. Where? *'They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads'* (Rev.22:4). Why do some Christians talk often about the mark of the Beast and seldom about the seal of God?**