

A PROFILE OF THE CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA

This is the second lesson on the church of Philadelphia. Last week we studied the history of the city of Philadelphia to understand the cultural influence upon the local church.

Today's lesson will study the five-point outline used to study each of the Seven churches of the Book of Revelation.

- Salutation of the church (3:7a) – Write.
- Celebrityship of Jesus (3:7b) – These things saith He who.
- Appraisal of the church (3:8-11) – I know your deeds.
- Phase III Reward (3:12) – He who overcomes.
- Phase II victory (3:13) – He who has an ear.

1. The SALUTATION TO THE CHURCH (3:7a) – Write (grapho/ a.a.impv) refers to the inspired Scriptures (2 Tim.2: 14-19; 3:15-17; 2 Pet.1: 20-21).

Smyrna (2nd) and Philadelphia (6th) were the only spiritual mature churches of the seven churches. Therefore it is important for us to learn what was written about the church of Philadelphia.

2. The CELEBRITYSHIP OF JESUS TO THE CHURCH (3:7b) – These things saith He who refers to the head of all Christian churches (Eph.5: 23-24).

The celebrityship of the last two churches is different from the rest because the description of Jesus Christ is not recorded in chapter one.

There is a four-fold description of the celebrityship of Jesus Christ given to the church of Philadelphia.

- The Holy One (ho hagios) – majesty of God
- The True One (ho alethinos) – message of God
- He who has the keys of David (ho echo/ p.a.ptc) – messiah of God
- He who opens (ho anoigo/ p.a.ptc) and shuts (kleio/ p.a.ptc) – missionary work of God

3. The APPRAISAL OF THE CHURCH (3:8-11) – I know your deeds refers to the Lord's evaluation of the divine production of the church on earth.

Pay special attention to the use of the word (*behold/ idou/ a.a.impv*). It is referred to three times (3:8, 9, 9) and insinuated in 3:11.

- **BEHOLD** (3:8) – Promise based performance of missionary work - open door that no one can shut. Three reasons (hoti/ reason) are given to teach promise based on faith performance (3:8).
 - Lord's grace – little strength or power (2 Cor.12:9)
 - Lord's word – kept My word
 - Lord's name - not denied My name

- **BEHOLD** (3:9a) – There are three types of Jews (religious, racial, and regenerated). Two of them belong to the synagogue of Satan (Rom.2: 17-29; 9:6-8; Gal.3: 26-29). Religion attacks the Christianity in a similar way that revolution attacks divine institution.
- **BEHOLD** (3:9B-10) – The Lord is still in the conversion business of the Jews as well as the Gentiles (Rom.1: 16). Saul of Tarsus is proof (Acts 9).

This is another promise based faith performance (hoti/ reason) (3:10). Two reasons are given to teach promise based faith performance (Rom.4: 21).

- Lord's patience – you kept the word of My patience
- Lord's protection – I will keep you from the hour of world testing.
- **BEHOLD** (insinuated) (3:11) – Lord will return for His church (quickly). There is a command (krateo/ p.a.impv/ hold fast what you have/ echo/ p.a.ind) associated with the crown of righteousness (2 Tim.4: 7-8).

4. PHASE III REWARD (3:12) – He who overcomes (ho nikao/ p.a.ptc). Four rewards are offered to the spiritual mature church of Philadelphia.

- Pillar in the temple of God (Rev.21: 10-22:5; Col.2: 9; 1 Tim.3: 15; Eph.2: 20-22; 1 Cor.6: 19).
- Name of My God (Rev.14:1; 22:4)
- Name of city of My God, the new Jerusalem
- Lord's new name

When a citizen of Philadelphia served the city well, his name was inscribed upon a pillar in memory of him.

5. PHASE II VICTORY (3:13) – He who has an ear let him hear (akouo/ a.a.impv/ faith cycle) (1 John 5:4)