

REVELATION

A LETTER TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES

Session 6: Church of Philadelphia - “Perseverance”

Ice Breaker (optional)

If you had to choose one word to describe your current spiritual season (steady, stretching, waiting, growing, tired, frustrated, indifferent, expectant, etc.), what would it be and why?

Sermon Summary

In Revelation 3:7–13, Jesus addresses the faithful church in Philadelphia, a church that receives no rebuke—only encouragement. Though small in strength and facing opposition, they obeyed Christ’s Word and did not deny His name. Jesus reveals Himself as the Holy and True One who holds the key of David—sovereign over every door of opportunity—and promises vindication, protection through testing, and eternal reward. In a city marked by instability and fear, He assures them of an unshakable Kingdom and a secure identity in Him. This letter reminds us that Jesus loves faithfulness: when we persevere with what He has given us, He opens doors no one can shut and secures a future no one can shake.

Group Objective

To encourage one another toward steady faithfulness in a hostile culture, to trust Christ’s authority over every open and closed door, and to persevere with confidence in His promises.

Study Questions

1. Read Revelation 3:7. Jesus describes Himself as “holy and true” and the One who holds “the key of David.” Why is it important that the church first sees who Jesus is before hearing what He says? How does His authority change the way we respond to closed or open doors in our lives?

Further Scripture: Isaiah 22:22; Hebrews 13:8; Matthew 28:18

2. Read Revelation 3:8. Jesus says, “You have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.” What does this teach us about how Jesus measures faithfulness? In what ways can weakness actually position us for greater dependence and usefulness in God’s Kingdom?

Further Scripture: 2 Corinthians 12:9–10; 1 Corinthians 1:26–29

3. Read Revelation 3:8. Throughout the New Testament, open doors often represent gospel opportunity. Why do you think faithfulness precedes opportunity? How have you seen obedience open doors for ministry or witness?

Further Scripture: 1 Corinthians 16:9; Colossians 4:3–4; Acts 14:27

4. Read Revelation 3:9. Jesus promises vindication for believers who are slandered and opposed. Why is it difficult to trust God with justice when we face misunderstanding or hostility? How does knowing that Christ sees and will set things right shape our response to opposition?

Further Scripture: Romans 12:17–21; 1 Peter 2:23; Matthew 5:11–12

5. Read Revelation 3:10. Jesus promises protection in a coming time of testing. How do we reconcile the reality that Christians experience suffering with the promise of Christ's protection? What does it mean to be spiritually preserved even in seasons of trial?

Further Scripture: John 17:15; James 1:2–4; 1 Peter 1:6–7

6. Read Revelation 3:11. Jesus says, "Hold fast what you have." What are we tempted to loosen our grip on when pressure increases—truth, holiness, love, perseverance? How can we actively guard what Christ has entrusted to us?

Further Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:13–14; Hebrews 10:23; 1 Corinthians 9:24–27

7. Read Revelation 3:12. Jesus promises that overcomers will be pillars in God's temple and citizens of the New Jerusalem. How does the promise of an unshakable identity and eternal belonging strengthen us in an unstable world? In what ways should our heavenly citizenship shape how we live now?

Further Scripture: Philippians 3:20; Hebrews 12:28; 1 Peter 2:9–10

Reflective Question (optional)

If Jesus were to evaluate our church or your personal walk today, would He find impressive strength—or quiet faithfulness? Where is He calling you to simply remain obedient with what He has already placed in your hands?

Closing Prayer

Thank You for being holy and true. Thank You that You are the One who opens doors no one can shut and closes doors no one can force open. Teach us to be faithful with what You have placed in our hands. When we feel weak, remind us that Your strength is enough. When we face opposition or pressure, help us to hold fast to Your Word and not deny Your name. Fix our eyes on the unshakable Kingdom You have promised, and make us steady, obedient, and courageous until the day You come.