



“There are no perfect churches. Churches struggle because all are made up of imperfect, sinning people. The church is not a place for people with no weaknesses; it is a fellowship of those who are aware of their weaknesses and long for the strength and grace of God to fill their lives. It is a kind of hospital for those who know they are sick and needy.” John MacArthur, *MacArthur New Testament Commentary, Rev 1-11*, p. 118

The church in Philadelphia

- Likely resulted from _____ ministry in Ephesus (Acts 19:10)
- A few years after John wrote Revelation, the church father _____ passed through Philadelphia on his way to be martyred. He later wrote the church a letter of encouragement and instruction.
- Some Christians from Philadelphia were _____ with Polycarp at Smyrna
- The church lasted for _____ – even after Philadelphia was overrun by _____
- It finally succumbed in the middle of the _____

3:7 – the _____ introduces Himself

- He who is _____
- He who is _____
- He who has _____
- He who _____ and no _____ & who _____ and no one _____

3:8 – what Jesus _____ about the church

Philadelphia, like Smyrna, received _____ from the Lord

What Jesus pointed out about the church:

- They had an _____ before them
- They had _____ (they were a _____ church)
- They had _____

Martin Luther: "My conscience is captive to the _____."

- They had not _____
- They had kept Jesus' command to _____

3:9 – Fake believers will be _____