

PERSISTENT PHILADELPHIA

Rev. 3:7-13
David Rountree

1. The church at Philadelphia is like the church at Smyrna in that it receives no rebuke nor call to repentance.
2. Christians troubled by the Jews (v.9). The Jews tried to exclude these Christians from heaven and God (Matt. 23:13; 1 Thess. 2:15, 16), but Jesus sets before them an open door (v.8).
3. The church is addressed by Jesus who is holy and true (v.7) a description not found in chapter one but is common elsewhere (15:4; 19:11; 6:10).

THE PERSONALITY OF GOD (v. 7)

1. **God's sinlessness.** Why this sinless description?
2. **God's surety.** Why this description?
3. **God's sovereignty.** He has "they key of David." Why the "keys" description?

THE PROMISE OF GOD (v. 12)

1. **The Promise of Power (v. 8).** Compare with the parable of Christ found in Matthew 25:14-30.
2. **The Promise of Position (v. 12).** What does it mean to be made a pillar in the temple of God?

THE PROTECTION OF GOD (v. 9-12)

1. **God will humiliate our Enemies (v. 9).**
 - a. Deceiving Jews are those who reject and persecute those who are truly believers of Christ (John 8:39-41; 44; Rev. 12:7-10; 2 Cor. 11:14-15).
 - b. We do not have to worry with revenge, God will take care of this (Rom. 12:19-21).
2. **God will keep us through the testing hour (v. 10).**
 - a. We don't need to focus on danger but rather on the sufficiency of Christ to protect us from all evil (v. 10).
 - b. *Futurists* assume, "kept from the hour of testing" (3:10) means that believers will be raptured out of this world prior to tribulation. Yet Christians can be protected without leaving the planet (John 17:6, 15).
 - c. The *Idealists* sees merely a reference to the time temptation is greatest in our lives (Matt. 26:45; 38-46).
 - d. *Preterists* would argue that the phrase "whole world" is similar to Luke 2:1 referring to all the Roman world which would have been normal language in John's day.
 - e. *Historicists and some futurists* say that since Philadelphia had an "open door" that they represent the great evangelism period of the Great Awakening (1793 until Christ returns).
3. **God will encourage our grip on faithful endurance (v. 11).**
4. **God will give us a new and better name (v. 12b).**