

I've Written You a Letter... Jesus

REVELATION CHAPTERS 2 & 3

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Philadelphia...Faithful and Committed...Revelation 3:7-13

"Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth." ...Revelation 3:10

Words of Wisdom • *"And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved."*
~Matthew 10:22

• *More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope."* ~Romans 5:3-4

• *God knows our situation; He will not judge us as if we had no difficulties to overcome. What matters is the sincerity and perseverance of our will to overcome them."* ~C.S. Lewis

- Jesus does not reproach this congregation but condemns its persecutors. (*Revelation 3:9*).
- Christ promises that if Philadelphia's congregants remain faithful to Him, He will protect them from the "hour of trial" and make them pillars in God's heavenly temple (*Revelation 3:10-12*).

1. The Church in Philadelphia...The Church in History to Today...YOU!

- *The Church in Ephesus...a Love left behind (internal opposition)*
- *The Church in Smyrna...Trials and Persecution (external opposition)*
- *The Church in Pergamos...Their trap of Compromise (lowering standards)*
- *The Church in Thyatira...Corrupt Tolerance (allowing sin)*
- *The Church in Sardis...Spiritually Dead (relied on reputation from the past)*

How to live our lives Faithfully despite life's tribulations...

2. How does the Lord Jesus introduce Himself to the church in Philadelphia?

Scripture: *Revelation 3:7, 2Thessalonians 1:6-7*

3. Whom does the Lord Jesus describe as "the synagogue of Satan?"...

What does He say about them?

Scripture: *Revelation 3:9*

4. For what does the Lord commend the church in Philadelphia?

Scripture: *Revelation 3:8*

5. What do you think the Lord means when He informs the church, "I have placed before you an open door" and "I know that you have little power?"

Scripture: *Revelation 3:8*

Group Discussion

1. Compare the church of Smyrna to the church of Philadelphia. What are the similarities between the two? How are they different from the other five?

2. READ *2Corinthians 12:9-10* together... How can we as men have little strength and yet keep God's word? Describe a time when this has been the case for you...

3. In *Revelation 3:9* Jesus says He will make their persecutors fall at their feet and acknowledge God loves them. Describe a time when your stand for "truth" encountered opposition.

● How does it encourage you to know that God will acknowledge your faithfulness?

4. In *Revelation 3:12* Jesus says He will write three names on those who are victorious: the name of God, the name of God's city, and Christ's new name. At the cost of perseverance and endurance for the faith, what does it mean to you to be marked in this way?

Prayer

Take a few moments to share any Prayer Requests with the men in your Group. Write down any requests and commit to pray for one another throughout the week.

(It's great to know that other guys are praying for the important things in your life...and it's great to be praying for the important things in their lives!)

How do the **5 Principles for the Christian Man**, help equip you to apply this to your life?

Discuss your answer with your group...

- Prayer (*Relationship*)
- God's Word (*Knowledge and Understanding*)
- Worship (*Adoration*)
- Fellowship (*Encouragement and Accountability*)
- Service (*Caring for Others, Action to your Belief*)