

Philadelphia  
Revelation 3:7-13

<sup>7</sup>“To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. <sup>8</sup>I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. <sup>9</sup>I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. <sup>10</sup>Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.

<sup>11</sup>I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. <sup>12</sup>The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name. <sup>13</sup>Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

The question that cries for reassurance: ‘How can I know I’m saved?’

‘How can we be sure that we’ll be admitted to God’s kingdom?’

Jesus is the keyholder (Isaiah 22)

The church in Philadelphia is characterized by two things

1. It’s size
2. It’s heart

To this powerless but faithful church, Jesus makes three promises.

**1. Jesus will vindicate his people (9)**

<sup>9</sup>I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you.

## 2. Jesus will protect his people (10)

<sup>10</sup>Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.

## 3. Jesus will identify his people

<sup>12</sup>The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name.

The name of his God: the faithful belong to God

The name of God's city: the faithful hold citizenship in the New Jerusalem

The name of God's Son: the faithful are in a special way related to Christ

## Conclusion

Even though

- Others will deny your right to belong to God's people, I will vindicate you
- Trials are coming upon every inhabitant on the earth, I will protect you
- You're excluded from mainstream society, I will own you

It matters not what your opponents say, if you are Christ's

1. It's you who are loved by Christ
2. It's you who are safe for ever
3. It's you who are owned by God