

STUDY & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR

JULY 12, 2020

REVELATION 3:7-13 (NASB)

⁷“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this:

⁸ ‘I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name. ⁹ Behold, I will cause *those* of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and *make them* know that I have loved you. ¹⁰ Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that *hour* which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. ¹¹ I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown. ¹² He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name. ¹³ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’

STUDY IT

- This letter is one of two that does *not* include a rebuke to the church. What is the other? Are there other similarities between the two?
- How does Jesus describe himself to the angel (pastor)? How are “keys” and the “door” helpful metaphors for Jesus? (vs.7-8)
- When someone says “I know your deeds,” what are they saying to you? How is being *known* by our actions important to our faith? (v.8)
- Jesus promises justice for the hypocrites of the self-professing Jewish followers. What will happen to them? How is this going to help the people of the church continue to persevere? (v.9)
- How does it help the people of God to entrust justice to the Lord and not take this action on their own? (v.9)

- God promises protection from the hour of testing. What is this *hour*? What would it mean to be preserved from what the rest of the world will experience? (v.10)
- The crown is *not for ruling* but for *celebrating victory*. How does a Christian achieve victory? (v.11)
- What are God’s promises for his people who overcome? (v.12)
- What are the *new things* coming into the world? (v.12)

APPLY IT

- How do you entrust God to act for justice on our behalf?
- Do you keep the word of Jesus’ perseverance? What does this look like in your life? (vs.8/10)
- Do you believe Jesus is coming again? And coming quickly? What are Christians to do when faced with a delay in his coming?

WORDLIST

Here are some words/phrases that might need some definition:

Key of David – A reference to Isaiah 22:22, where the prophet speaks of the messianic figure who will hold sovereign authority over God’s kingdom.

Open Door – Jesus holds the authority over all who seek to enter into his glorious kingdom. Just as Jesus reveals himself to be the way of life (John 14:6) and the gate for his faithful sheep (10:7).

The Hour (of testing) – Refers to a specified time of persecution and suffering. To other churches, Jesus called them to persevere. To this church, he promises protection.

New Jerusalem – Philadelphia, though a great city, was not going to last. A perfect, forever-city is on its way. All of God’s faithful ones are invited to dwell in this city with him forever. This city is described in Rev. 21 with great detail!