

# 1) Philadelphia Church Rev. 3: 7-13

The Lacedaean letters contained no commendation for the pathetic state they had fallen in to.

But here in the church of Philadelphia we have just the opposite situation. This church receives no condemnation - only promises - we are going to focus in on 2 of these promises.

First one Let's read (vs. 7-9)

In this letter note how Jesus introduces himself - in every letter he draws attention to some aspect of his own person which the church can appropriate for itself.

"Key of David" J.C. has been given the authority to carry out the purposes of God (i.e) J.C. is the one who "opens doors".

3 questions

**I** What are the "open doors"?

The term "open door" is very familiar to these people - it's a term to describe opportunities for evangelism - for proclaiming the message of Christ to unbelievers.

(e.g) (Acts 14:27) - after 1<sup>st</sup> missionary journey Paul described to church at Antioch how "Christ had opened to them a door of faith for the gentiles".

(I Cor. 16:9) "a wide door has been opened to me for effective service & there are many adversaries"

The realization of the possibility that there is a higher power than we are

But there is the claim of theism that we have just the opposite situation. This claim is not reasonable because we are going to face the possibility of no promises

Final  
only

But his letter has been intentional in every letter the claim that the existence of the god is not proven until the claim is disproven for itself. David has been given the authority to carry out the purpose of the god. (10:10) "the god is open to be disproven"

What is the "open to be disproven ?"

The term "open to be disproven " is very important to the people into a team to believe in opportunities for evangelism - for proclaiming the message of Christ to the world. (10:10) - often in evangelism people are hesitant to claim to believe in the god because they are not sure of the existence of the god. (10:10) "a wide range of opportunities for evangelism is available to the people who are open to be disproven "

2 - an opportunity in Ephesus to plant a church  
This should be an important promise for each  
one of us here at this retreat

① We believe that J.C. is "the way, truth & life"  
"no one can come to the Father - to God" - ~~than~~  
any other way". So explaining this truth  
to people is one of the greatest privileges  
we have

② This is not something we do in our  
own power - because J.C. has all authority.  
He uses His Power to provide opportunities  
for us - open doors - for us to explain  
Christianity to others. It's not something

Antithesis

③ we are doing on a horizontal level  
④ Not something that can be explained sociologically  
⑤ Christians trying to market a message

⑥ Evangelism is not a media campaign  
Rather Christ is directly involved in  
going before us - He personally intervenes  
in sovereign ways to bring people to a  
recognition of their need for forgiveness  
⑦ to actually put Christians in contact with  
those who are open to the message of Christ

In the great commission the command  
to "Go & make disciples" is based on the  
promise of (v. 18) "All authority is granted  
to me in heaven & on earth - go therefore"...  
T.C. is promising to be involved by opening  
us for our witness



3) Read thru the book of Acts Thematically asking the question - "How did J.C. open the doors for the early church?"

It's remarkable to see how He got involved from the very beginning going before those believers to provide opportunities for them

① → at the Day of Pentecost with the beginning of the church - only 120 of them - they miraculously began to speak in other languages which they did not know. 1000's there from all over Roman Empire - heard these simple believers speaking of the great things God had done thru Christ. He precipitated this miracle to pave the way for Peter to preach his pentecost sermon about Christ - 3000 received J.C. - This is a great miracle - a very dramatic e.g. of Christ opening doors.

NB not very many of us have had this kind of miracle occur as we share Christ!

② This is occurring all thru the book of Acts (e.g. in Acts 8 - a great persecution arose. We might think Jesus went to sleep at the wheel + was being defeated. Luke uses the word "scattered" - same word Jesus used in the parable of the seed's being sown. They were scattered all over the area of Samaria - Jesus used the persecution to reach 100's + 1000's of Samaritan people - just as his command in Acts 1:8.

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