

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 1st 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"

Philosophical Church Nov 3:7-13

The foundation of the church is the gospel which is the power of God for salvation to all who believe in it.

But there is the church of Christ which is the church of the living God. This church is not a mere organization. We are going to focus on the gospel and the church.

Final
ONE

David has been given the authority to carry out the purpose of the church. The church is the body of Christ. The church is the community of believers who are united together in the gospel.

What are the "open doors"?

The term "open door" is very familiar to those people who are in the business of evangelism. The purpose of the church is to evangelize. The church is the body of Christ. The church is the community of believers who are united together in the gospel. The church is the body of Christ. The church is the community of believers who are united together in the gospel.

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
we are doing on a horizontal level

Antithesis

③ Not something that can be explained sociologically

④ Christians trying to market a message

⑤ 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

⑥ 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

an opportunity in Epitaph to bring to light
this should be an important feature to
one of the best of the rest

1. We believe that J.C. is the most likely to
be the one to be the subject of the investigation

2. This is not to be understood as an admission
of guilt on the part of J.C. but as an admission
of the fact that the investigation is being conducted
in order to bring to light the truth of the matter

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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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