



Introduction

The city of Philadelphia was located 28 miles southeast of Sardis. It was located in an area noted for its agricultural products but afflicted with earthquakes which destroyed the city several times. It had been built with the deliberate intention that it might become a missionary city. Beyond Philadelphia lay Phrygia and the barbarous tribes; it was intended that the function of Philadelphia would be to spread the Greek language, the Greek way of life and the Greek civilization, throughout the regions beyond.

Philadelphia was situated strategically on the main route of the Imperial Post from Rome to the East, and called "the gateway to the East." It was also called "little Athens" because of the many temples in the city. The church was located in a place of tremendous opportunity. The only major problem with the location was that the area was prone to earthquakes. Philadelphia sat on a geological fault, and in 17 BC it was destroyed by a severe earthquake that also destroyed Sardis and ten other cities.

The faithful church, Philadelphia receives no condemnation from the Lord, only encouragement and promise.

Treasures of the Heart

*Because you have kept My command to persevere,
I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world,
to test those who dwell on the earth.*

Rev. 3:10

What does it say?

The first step is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure. **Mark your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts or similarities. Look for answers to, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How?

Revelation 3:7-13

7 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write,

'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens": 8 "I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. 9 Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie — indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. 10 Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. 11 Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. 12 He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. 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 I will write on him My new name.

13 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Digging Deeper

Dig deeper using other resources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps & cross-references. Notate where you found it to share with the group. Look for commands to obey or questions to be answered. What does God want you to know about Himself?



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What words or phrases are repeated? Repeated words help us discover the main point, and what is most important to the author.

Look - **What do you see?** Write a summary sentence that states the **main point of the chapter** from the observations you made. What is the author trying to say?

Aim: _____

Learn – **What does it mean?**

What **lesson** can I draw from my observations? **Ask yourself, “What was the intended meaning of the original author?”** Is there a command to obey or a warning to heed? An example to follow or avoid? **State each lesson in a simple sentence that you could share with someone else.** (aim for 10 words or less).

Revelation 3:7-13 _____

Live - **How can I apply it?**

Ask yourself, “What course of action do I need to take to apply each lesson?” How should it change me? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? Putting it in the form of a question helps make it personal. (aim for 10 words or less).

Revelation 3:7-13 _____

Challenge: Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up the main point.
Summarize your findings in your own words.

Looking for Jesus. . .

The following appear in each of the 7 churches. State and define the church name along with each of the following. **State or simply define these truths in your own words.**

Name of Church _____

Name of Jesus _____

Commendation _____

Criticism _____

Exhortation _____

Call _____

Promise _____

The Kingdom of Heaven is Like

Each of the 7 churches corresponds with the 7 Kingdom Parables found in Matthew 13. See if you can discover which Kingdom parable that corresponds with this church. What added meaning does it imply?

Expand the Vision

Each church also corresponds with one of Paul's epistles. For expanded understanding, which of Paul's epistles corresponds with this church?

Title State the main **point** of the passage in the form of a title.

Flex Your Muscles See if you can simply state what the Spirit is saying and what must be overcome?

Radiating His Truth . . .

When God opens a door for you, nobody can shut it;
but you can ignore or neglect it.

Warren Wiersbe

