

97-01

Get It!

Promises for the Faithful Church

3:7 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. 8 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. 9 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. 10 Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.

11 I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no-one will take your crown. 12 Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him 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 him my new name. 13 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. (NIV)

1. A Promise Regarding Our Task (vv.7-8a)

A. *The Condition:* _____

B. *The Promise:* _____

2. A Promise Regarding Our Reputation (vv.8b-9)

A. *The Condition:* _____

B. *The Promise:* _____

3. A Promise Regarding Our Well-Being (v.10)

A. *The Condition:* _____

B. *The Promise:* _____

4. A Promise Regarding Our Future (vv.11-13)

A. *The Condition:* _____

B. *The Promise:* _____

Discussion Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message and to prepare you for participation in one of our small group studies. If you need more information about when and where CARE groups are meeting this week see the display in

1. The church has been given the primary task of "making disciples", or as we say at PCC, "helping people pursue Christ". Whenever an analogy of an "open door" is talked about in the New Testament it has to do with opportunities as it relates to this primary task. Jesus said he was going to "open a door" for the church at Philadelphia because he knew their deeds. Apparently the church had been active in the work and now God was going to grant them some fruitful opportunities. How well do you think we are doing corporately at PCC in being faithful in the work of "making disciples"?

How actively are you involved in the task of evangelism?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:19-20. What can we do corporately and individually to prove faithful to what we have been entrusted with?

2. The church at Philadelphia was hounded by the religious Jews in their city. The synagogues were well established and powerful compared to the church at that time. The church was tempted to compromise the truth because of the pressure of the Jews... but they didn't! What groups, organizations or influences in our culture pressure us to compromise the truth?

Why do they present us with a temptation to compromise truth?

How can we as individuals guard ourselves against this form of compromise?

3. Jesus noted the patient endurance of the Christians at Philadelphia. How patient are you?

What things call for patient endurance as a Christian?

Practically speaking, how does a Christian develop more patience?

5. Jesus encouraged the church to *continue* to be faithful in these areas. He stated that he would in a final day reward those that did. What encouragement and motivation do you derive from different kinds of rewards stated in verses 11 and 12?