

# Obedient Loyal Steadfast

## Revelation 3:7-13

Job 12:9-25

John 14:15-25



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## Growing As Real Disciple

- Five **D**'s of Discipleship.
- **D**esire . . . .
- **D**etermination . . .
- **D**iscipline
- A disciple gives all **DILIGENCE** to all that he/she does; especially to their growing as a disciple and helping their brothers and sisters in their growing.
  - steadfast, earnest, and energetic effort
  - “interest one’s self most earnestly”
  - Deuteronomy 4:9; 6:6-7; 28:1; 2 Chronicles 34:33; Psalm 119:4; Proverbs 4:23; 13:4; Romans 12:8, 10-11; **2 Timothy 2:15**; Hebrews 4:11; 6:11; **11:6**; **2 Peter 2:5-8, 10**; **3:14-18**

## To the Church at Philadelphia:

### Philadelphia: The City

- **PHILADELPHIA** means “brotherly love.”
- Strategically located on a major route from Rome, called “the gateway to the East.” It was a link between the east and west.
- Also called “little Athens” because of the many temples in the city. (See Acts 17:16-34)
- Destroyed by an earthquake in A.D. 17. Because of nearby volcanos, the city suffered from many earthquakes (small, medium, and large). People refused to go back into the city and built houses on the outskirts.
- They renamed the city “Neocaesarea” and then “Flavia” after emperors of Rome.
- Philadelphia gave the emperor the title “**The Son of the Holy One.**”

## • Consider:

- ➊ Philadelphia was a **missionary** city. It was founded for the purpose of spreading the Greek culture and language to Lydia and Phrygia. It worked for Lydia forsook her language and culture and became Greek.
- ➋ Its people lived always in fear of **disaster**.
- ➌ Many of its people **moved out** of the city to live.
- ➍ It took a **new** name from the imperial god.

## The Master’s Title (Revelation 3:7)

### \* He who is **HOLY**.

- ★ **GOD** is **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**. (Isaiah 9:6; 40:25)
- Because **GOD** is holy He expects His people to be holy. (Leviticus 11:45; 19:2; 20:7, 11; 1 Thessalonians 4:7; 1 Peter 1:14-16; Hebrews 12:14)
  - “set apart” from **SIN**; for a **PURPOSE**; by **GOD**; for **GOD**.
- Believers are called **SAINTS** (“**HOLY ONES**”) – 14 times in the Book of Revelation.
- The saints of Philadelphia had shown themselves as “like” their **LORD**.

### \* He who is **TRUE**.

- **TRUE** means that Christ is NOT a copy, not a manufactured god, BUT genuine, real, and authentic.
- Christ calls Himself “**the TRUTH**”. (John 14:6)
- ★ **HOLY** and **TRUE** are used together only 2x in the NT!
  - Here, speaking of Christ, and in 6:10 when they describe **GOD**.

### \* He who holds the **KEYS** of David. (See Isaiah 22:22)

- This is a reference to the messianic office. (Revelation 5:5; 22:10)
- The key is a symbol for **AUTHORITY**.
- Christ has the **SOVEREIGN** authority to determine who enters into the kingdom of God (His Kingdom). (Matthew 11:25; John 10:7, 9; 14:6; Acts 4:12)
- **ALL POWER** and **AUTHORITY** has been given to Christ. (Matthew 28:18; John 17:2)
- Christ also holds the keys to **DEATH** and **HADES**. (Revelation 1:18)
- Christ is the holder of **BLESSINGS** and **CURSES**. (Job 2:10; **Lamentations 3:38-41**; John 18:11; James 5:10)

### \* He who **OPENS** and **CLOSES**.

- This describes The Master’s **OMNIPOTENCE** (all power).
- He is sovereign to decide what is open and what is closed.
  - ★ Acts 16:6-7; 1 Corinthians 16:5-9; 2 Corinthians 2:12.
  - Also see Acts 14:27; Colossians 4:3;
- **NO ONE** can **UNDO** what He does. (See Isaiah 14:27; 46:9-11; 43:13; Ecclesiastes 7:13; Jeremiah 18:6; Daniel 4:35)
- Literally, this means “I have given you an open door.” It has to do with **ENTRUSTING** something to someone.

## *“I Know Your Works . . .”*

### The Master’s Criticism (!!)

- Christ has **NONE!**

### The Master’s Commendation (Revelation 3:8-10)

- “I have set before you an **OPEN DOOR.**”
  - An OPEN DOOR is a symbol of **SERVICE.**
    - Acts 14:27; 1 Corinthians 16:9; 2 Cor 2:12; Col 4:3
  - NO ONE can CLOSE this DOOR of service! Because Christ OPENED it!
  - Christ also **CLOSES** doors. (Acts 16:6-10)
  - Christ is the LORD of the harvest! (Matthew 9:38) and the HEAD of the Church! (Ephesians 5:23; Colossians 1:18)
- “You have **LITTLE** strength.”
  - ★ The church was small in number.
  - ★ The WORLD would look at this church and say that it is not SIGNIFICANT! Remember Thyatira.
  - The saints at Philadelphia knew that God’s **GRACE** was sufficient. (2 Corinthians 12:9, 10)
  - The saints at Philadelphia knew that their **SUFFICIENCY** was in GOD. (2 Corinthians 3:5; John 15:5)
  - The saints at Philadelphia **REJOICED** in their weaknesses. (2 Corinthians 12:9-10; 4:7; Romans 5:3; James 1:2; 1 Peter 4:13-14)
  - The saints at Philadelphia knew that they could do **ALL THINGS** through Christ. (Philippians 4:13)
- “You have **KEPT MY WORD!**”
  - ★ They were **OBEDIENT.**
  - They **DEMONSTRATED** their love for their HEAD. (John 14:23-24; 15:13-14)
- “You have NOT DENIED MY NAME.”
  - They had remained **FAITHFUL** (LOYAL) to their Head.
- “You have kept the word of MY **PERSEVERANCE.**”
  - ★ ὑπομένω *hupomeno* {hoop-om-en’-o} - “steadfastness, constancy, endurance”; “the characteristic of a man/woman whois not swerved from his/her **deliberate purpose** and his **loyalty** to faith **and** piety by even the greatest trials and suffering.” (Matthew 10:22; 24:13; Mark 13:13; Romans 12:12; Col1:11; 2 Tim 2:12; Heb 12:1-2; James 1:12)
  - They remained FAITHFUL in the midst of hardships.
  - See Revelation 14:12.
- “**I HAVE LOVED YOU!!!!**” (v. 9)

### The Master’s Instruction (v. 11)

- ① **“HOLD FAST” – DO NOT GIVE UP!** – We must persevere **to the end.**
  - ★ Matthew 10:22; 24:13; Hebrews 3:6, 14.
  - “I come quickly” – means “suddenly, unexpectedly, without announcement” and not so much “soon.”
  - (1 Thessalonians 5:4) Christ will come “as” a thief:  
(Matt. 24:43; Luke 12:39; 1 Thess 5:2, 4; 2 Peter 3:10; Revelation 3:3; 16:15)
- ② **“Let no MAN take your CROWN!”**
  - ☞ Crowns in Scripture: See Handout
  - ★ Do not let any one DECEIVE you! (Matt 24:4-5, 11, 24; 2 Peter 2:1-3; 1 John 4:1; Colossians 2:8)

### The Master’s Warning (No warning because there was NO CRITICISM.)

### The Master’s Promise (vv. 9-10, 12-13)

- ① **HE** will take care of their **ENEMIES.** (v. 9)
  - Consider The Master’s words in John 8:41-47.
  - JEWS but NOT JEWS – see Romans 9:6-8.
  - Their enemies would **BOW** their knees. (See Isaiah 60:14; 45:23-25; Philippians 2:10-11)
- ② **HE** would keep them from: **THE TRIBULATION.** (v. 10)
  - ① This test is yet in the FUTURE.
  - ② The test is for a DEFINITE limited time.
  - ③ The test will expose people for who they REALLY are.
  - ④ The test will be WORLDWIDE.
  - ⑤ The test is for “those who dwell on the earth”.  
(These are UNBELIEVERS: Revelation 6:10; 8:13; 11:10; 13:8, 12, 14; 14:6; 17:2, 8)
  - In the Old Testament this testing is called: **JACOB’S TROUBLE.** (Jeremiah 30:7)
  - This is the **70<sup>th</sup>** week in Daniel’s prophecy in chapter 9. (Daniel 9:27)
  - Christ promises to keep His saints from (or literally, “keep out”) this period.
- ③ **HE** will **HONOR** them.
  - He will make them a **PILLAR** in the Temple of God.
  - He will write upon them a **NEW** name.
  - He will make them **CITIZENS** of His City - the New Jerusalem.  
(Philippians 3:20; Hebrews 11:13-16)
  - They will no more go OUT! (Hebrews 13:13-14)

**HE WHO HAS AN EAR, LET HIM HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT IS SAYING TO US.**