

LOCATION OF PHILADELPHIA; ETC.

1. Philadelphia lay 28 miles southeast of Sardis, the church and city of our last lesson, Rev. 3:1-6.
  1. Because of its position it was the gateway to the east.
  2. Philadelphia was known as a border town. It stood at the borders of three countries: Mysia, Lydia, and Phrygia.
2. Philadelphia established.
  1. Philadelphai was founded by Attalus the Second about 140 B.C.
  2. Attalus was called Philadelphus so it was after him that Philadelphia had been named.
3. Philadelphia, the meaning.
  1. Attalus the Second, because of his loyalty and love to his brother was called Philadelphus which means "brotherly lover." So Philadelphia means "brotherly love."
  2. The city of "brotherly love." Illustration in Hebrews 13:1: "Let brotherly love continue."

THE CHURCH AT PHILADELPHIA

1. The church at Philadelphia was not censored.
  1. Nothing good could be said about the church at Sardis.
  2. Nothing bad could be said about the church at Philadelphia.
2. The church at Philadelphia described as "the strong but weak church."
  1. "For thou hast a little strength," Rev. 3:8. A recent article by a Mr. M. T. Rankin dealt with the subject: WHAT IS A BIG CHURCH? Mr. Rankin pointed out:
    - (1) Too often we think only in terms of numbers.
    - (2) It is better to make numbers count than to count numbers.
    - (3) The large church is not always the great one, while the great church is not always large in number.
    - (4) It is possible that a church may be large in numbers and at the same time great in missionary zeal.
    - (5) A church is not great in missionary zeal only because of the number. What makes a church great?:
      1. Good, wide awake leaders in the church.
      2. Good, wide awake members in the church.

PHILADELPHIA, THE CHURCH OF THE OPEN DOOR

1. Consider the one who opens the door. His character exhibited as:
  1. Holy. "He that is holy." Separate from sinners. None could convict him of sin.
  2. True. "He that is true." He was:
    - (1) True in sentiment. His sympathies were all in accord with that which is holy and good.
    - (2) True in speech. All his language (teaching) was true and to the point.
    - (3) True in character. There was not shifting from eternal right. In the midst of the world's shams, like the sun in the midst of the ever-shifting clouds, Jesus stood fast.
3. Supreme. "He that hath the key of David." Means great power. "He that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth." Verse 7

## Church of Christ

(3) 1100 IN SOUTH GREEN STREET GLASGOW, KENTUCKY 42141

Boys:

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PHILADELPHIA: THE OPEN DOOR CHURCH

"I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it." 3:8. No man can deprive thee of the opportunity.

1. Consider the door of our text. The two fold sense of a door:

1. Access. You are on one side of the door and may enter to the other side. The song the little children sing:

One door and only one,  
Yet its sides are two.  
The outside and the inside.  
On which side are you?

- (1) Access is made possible by a person. Jesus said, I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture (John 10:9).  
(2) Paul said, Therefore beign justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God (Romans 5:1,2)

2. Opportunity. Paul said, But I will tarry at Ephesus until Pentecost.

(9) For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries (1 Cor. 16:8,9).  
(2 Cor. 2:12; Co. 4:3).

ADVERSARIES AT PHILADELPHIA

Adversaries then and now:

1. Adversaries at Philadelphia. Adversaries always accompany opportunity:

1. They had the synagogue of Satan in their midst. This synagogue made up:  
(1) Which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie. They were not true Jews in the Lord's sight.  
(2) These Jews, who were only Jews outwardly (Rom. 2:28,29) had been the chief enemies of the church.

2. ADVERSARIES IN GLASGOW. The church is confronted to day by:

1. Those who say they are Jews (Christians), and are not, but do lie.  
2. Rising Nationalism: Making big government our god. Our government controlling everything including doling of charity.  
3. Formalism: "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away" (2 Tim. 3:5)  
4. Naturalism in American education: Naturalism is a denial of supernatural: A denial of God.  
(1) American education today is graduating a generation which has been taught naturalism directly and indirectly. This has psuhed God aside. Such teaching has caused a great void in the world of today.  
(2) What shall be the fate of youth adrift in such a spiritual void as has resulted under such godless teaching?

WHO WILL ENTER THE DOOR OF OPPORTUNITY

1. The weak and the Anemic are never able to lay hold of great opportunities.  
1. Faithless, afraid, not able they say to enter in.  
2. Only the strong people enter doors of opportunity. Some one said,  
1. The door of opportunity is labeled "Push."

WHAT ABOUT THOSE WHO ENTER?

1. They were obedient. "And didst keep my word."  
2. They were loyal. "Hast not denied my name."  
3. They were rewarded. "I will keep thee."

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WHO WILL ENTER THE DOOR OF OBEDIENCE

as has been taught in the Bible and in the words of the apostles.

(5) When we are in the state of sin, we are in a state of rebellion against God.

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