



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Revelation: The Church at Philadelphia

Speaker: Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor

Scripture: Revelation 3:7-13

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

¹¹I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. ¹²The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them 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 them my new name. ¹³Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. (NIV)

Sermon Outline:

The Book of Revelation is the most misunderstood, misapplied, and dangerous book of the Bible. It is prophetic literature, telling us what the future holds and **who** holds the future. It is apocalyptic literature which unveils and reveals what is happening behind the scenes, and it is also resistance literature, a letter that was sent to different churches to encourage them – we are to resist sin and ways of the evil one to walk in the way of the chosen one.

The church at Philadelphia is only one of two churches that Jesus does not speak words of confrontation to. He knows that they are a church that has little strength and offers words of encouragement. The church of Philadelphia is being persecuted and its people who are worn out. He reminds them Who they are in relationship with.

We are to fix our eyes on Jesus to remind ourselves of Who we are in relationship with.

The Holy One
The True One
The One Who Holds the Key of David

Words of encouragement:

- I am Coming Soon
- Hold on to What you Have
- I Will Make You Into a Pillar

In the Gospel of Christ, we give God what we have and He gives us what He has. If you are feeling weak today you can call upon the name of the Lord.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday, Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor, continues our sermon series through a portion of the Book of Revelation. Today Pastor Rich preaches focuses on the church at Philadelphia, God’s character and his promises to people who find themselves experiencing weakness.

Sermon Questions:

1. Do you feel an invitation from Christ in today's scripture passage? Do any of the words resonate with you? If so, why?
2. Are you feeling weak today, or where have you experienced weakness this week? If you are feeling weak, can trust in the Lord and the words of love and encouragement that He speaks over you?
3. Are you living your life today trying to hold it together for everyone? Do you feel as though everything will fall apart if you don't? Jesus draws close to those who have little strength. Can you give yourself the freedom to confess that you need some help, that you cannot hold everything together?
4. What or who are you building your identity on? Are you building your identity based around what you are against or who you are against? It is only God who determines who is saved and who is not, who is righteous and who is not. Don't be surprised if the very people you despise are those very people who Jesus loves.
5. Do you feel like you have nothing to offer Jesus or are you living your life in fear of what might be coming up next in your life? Jesus wants you to offer him your pebble so that he can take that and make you a pillar. Find time this week to offer this up to Jesus. His hands are on your life and he will raise you up!