

**CHURCH AT PHILADELPHIA**

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**PHILADELPHIA**

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1. Was founded by Attalus the Second in about 150 B.C. Attalus was called Philadelphos...thus..."brotherly love".
  2. While not an old city, it had become somewhat famous.
  3. 'Both for its location and the wine that was made there.
  4. It was built with the intention that it be a Missionary city. The Greek civilization was to be spread from this place to the wilds of Phrygia.
  5. It was also known as "The Burnt Land" because it lay on the edge of a great volcanic area. Very fertile....Great vineyards.
  6. But also very susceptible to Earth Quakes. (Destroyed in A.D. 17).
  7. Many temples but the most prominent one was to the god of wine.
  8. It was also custom to honor great men or great achievement by building a pillar on one of the temples and placing the man's name there. Some of these pillars still exist.
  9. So Philadelphia was a prosperous, great city, with many Jews.
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**COMMENDATION**

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- A. No other church among the seven is more highly praised.
- B. "I HAVE SET BEFORE THEE AN OPEN DOOR".
  1. When we work other opportunities will present themselves.
  2. Remember that this was a Missionary city for Greek culture.
  3. The open door of opportunity for them is applied to the church.
  4. The healthiest church is the most active.
  5. Where is the door of opportunity.

"A man who had been touched for Christ came to Spurgeon and asked Him what he could do about winning others.  
Spurgeon asked: "What are you? What do you do? The man said "I am an engine driver". "Then," said Spurgeon, "is your fireman a Christian?" "I don't know," said the man. "Go back," said Spurgeon" and find out and start on him."
- C. THREE DOORS OPEN TO ALL:
  1. The Door of Opportunity.
    - a. The door of MISSIONARY opportunity.
    - b. The door of opportunity to SERVICE.
    - c. The door of opportunity to SELF-IMPROVEMENT.
  2. The door may be none other than Jesus Himself (John 10:7-9).
  3. The door of PRAYER!

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- D. COMMENDED BECAUSE THEY STOOD TRUE AGAINST THE pressure of the Jews. (Who again were called “synagogue of Satan”.)
1. When converted would find the synagogue door shut in their face.
  2. Find themselves excommunicated. Cursed as apostates.
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**COUNSEL**

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- A. “HOLD FAST THAT WHICH THOU HAST”
1. The work they were doing.
  2. Their faithfulness to Christ and His Gospel.
- B. “THAT NO ONE TAKE THY CROWN”
1. II Timothy 4:8.
  2. Let not one lead them astray...or in any manner cause them to fall.
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**PROMISE**

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- A. “I WILL MAKE HIM A PILLAR IN THE TEMPLE OF MY GOD.”
1. Mentioned a moment ago the custom of placing a man of honor name on pillar of the temples.
  2. May have been a reference to this.
- B. “AND HE SHALL GO OUT THENCE NO MORE”
1. Again remember that Philadelphia was noted for Earth Quakes.
  2. When a tremor began the people would flee from the city to escape from falling building. Then return.
  3. Perhaps we can see in this a promise of safety...that they in Christ would not have to flee in terror.
  4. IT WAS NOT PROTECTION FROM DEATH THAT THE RISEN CHRIST OFFERED: IT WAS DELIVERANCE FROM THE **FEAR** OF DEATH.
- C. THIS IS A PROMISE MADE TO YOU TODAY.
1. That if you will hold fast...
  2. Then you will not have to fear death!
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