

What If Jesus Wrote This Church A Letter?

Philadelphia: The Faithful Church

(Revelation 3:7-13)

- Introduction:
1. There are no perfect churches.
 2. However, the good news is that God makes provision for our imperfection and is pleased with faithfulness.
 3. If only God's people had the same view as God!

I. Background to the Text

- A. No record of how this church was established (Acts 19:10).
- B. The city was destroyed by an earthquake in AD 17 and rebuilt by Rome.
- C. They had a temple built to the Emperor, Tiberius.
- D. They even changed the name of the city to "Neocaesarea" (i.e. the new city of the Caesar) to express their gratitude to Rome.
- E. The church existed there until the 14th century, long after Islam's influence dominated the region.

II. Jesus' Identification

- A. He is holy and true (Rev. 3:7).
- B. He holds the key of David (Rev. 3:7; Isaiah 22:22; Rev. 1:18).

III. Jesus' Assessment

- A. They were faithful (Rev. 3:8).
 1. Works.
 2. A little strength.
 3. Kept God's word.
 4. Have not denied Jesus.

IV. Jesus' Promises

- A. They will be vindicated (Rev. 3:9).
- B. They will be providentially protected (Rev. 3:10).
- C. He will come quickly (Rev. 3:11).
- D. They will be a pillar in the temple (Rev. 3:12).

- Conclusion:
1. He who has an ear, let him hear!
 2. May we replicate the actions of our early brethren that enabled God to be pleased with them and consider them faithful.