

## Lesson 9

### Church at Philadelphia

#### **Philadelphia Background**

Philadelphia was founded in 189 B.C. by Pergamon King Eumenes and given its name in honor of the love he had for brother Attalus. The city was also called Decapolis, because it was considered one of the ten cities of the plain. In the first century A.D. the city was referred to Neo-kaisaria. . In addition to these names it was also sometimes referred to as 'Little Athens' because of the pagan temples.

#### **Matthew Henry Commentary:**

This also was a city in Asia Minor, seated upon the borders of Mysia and Lydia, and had its name from that brotherly love for which it was eminent. We can hardly suppose that this name was given to it after it received the Christian religion, and that it was so called from that Christian affection that all believers have, and should have, one for another, as the children of one Father and the brethren of Christ; but rather that it was its ancient name, on account of the love and

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kindness which the citizens had and showed to each other as a civil fraternity. This was an excellent spirit, and, when sanctified by the grace of the gospel, would render them an excellent church, as indeed they were, for here is no one fault found with this church, and yet, doubtless, there were faults in it of common infirmity; but love covers such faults.

#### **STUDY OF PHILADELPHIA REV 3:7-13**

<sup>7</sup>“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.

1. What power is given to someone who holds a set of keys?
2. Who is holding the keys of David?
3. What does he control with those keys?

*An appointed official controlled entrance into the royal palace, a position of the highest authority in the kingdom as shown in Isaiah 22:15-25.*

<sup>8</sup> I 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.

4. What had Christ done for this church?

5. What is this church's commendation from the Master?

*Even a weak church who follows God's Word will continue to grow in grace and receive the Lord's blessing.*

<sup>9</sup> I 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.

*Matthew Henry Commentary:*

*Assemblies that worship God in spirit and in truth are the Israel of God; assemblies that either worship false gods, or the true God in a false manner, are the synagogues of Satan: though they may profess to be the only people of God, their profession is a lie.*

6. What draws you toward joining a group of people more than anything else?

<sup>10</sup> Since 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.

*Matthew Henry Commentary*

*After a day of patience we must expect an hour of temptation; a day of gospel peace and liberty is a day of God's patience,*

7. When do you have the greatest time of temptation?

<sup>11</sup> I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.

8. List some things we as Christians should "hold on to".

<sup>12</sup> The 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.

9. What are some things we need to do to be "victorious"?

<sup>13</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

10. What is the application for Valley View Baptist?