



The Faithful Church (Rev. 3.7-13)

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THE CHURCH: Philadelphia

1. Located about 30 miles Northwest of Sardis, the imperial postal route from Rome passed through here and earned it the title, “_____ to the East”.
2. Strabo the historian described it as a city full of _____.
3. Experienced _____ and opposition from the local Jewish synagogue. Many likely expelled (cf. the blind man in John 9.34)
4. Some Jewish leaders in the late first century apparently thought that they had the authority to control _____ to the kingdom of God (Mt. 23.13)

Jesus rewards faithfulness with opportunity – not because of our ability, but because of our usability.

WHAT DOES FAITHFULNESS TO CHRIST BRING? (4 lessons from a faithful church)

1. Faithfulness brings _____ for What We Lack (3.7b)
2. Faithfulness brings _____ to What We Do (3.8)
3. Faithfulness brings _____ In Times of Trouble (3.9-10)
4. Faithfulness brings _____ of Future Reward (3.11-13)

Rev. 1:3-Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear. and who keep what is written in it. for the time is near.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: Family Devo's, House Churches, Triads, etc.

1. The Philadelphian Christians knew that faithfulness to Christ often means being excluded from certain circles. Discuss some ways you have seen this occur in your own Christian experience or in the experience of someone you know.
2. Reflect on the four outcomes that come to those who live faithfully for Christ. Which of the four do you need to embrace the most right now?
3. Why does the enemy so often get us to focus on our own limitations, weaknesses or failures? How do we gain Christ's perspective about ourselves and our value in the kingdom?
4. How does the hope of a future reward keep us pursuing Christ in the face of trouble and trials?

Fill in the blank answers: Gateway, earthquakes, conflict, access, praise/approval, provision, perspective, protection, promise