

CHAPTERS TWO AND THREE – SEVEN LETTERS TO SEVEN CHURCHES

THE LETTER TO THE CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA – REVELATION 3:7-13 – PART TWO

Last week we studied the text of Revelation 3:7-13, which was written to the church at Philadelphia in Asia Minor. The name means “_____” and exemplifies the characteristics of that church. We observed that there are no condemnations issued to this faithful church, but rather they were greatly commended by God:

- They are hard working – Philadelphia is the church of the “open door” that no man can shut, and no wonder because the door was opened with the _____ of David.
- They have a *little strength*...
- They _____ God’s word, and did not _____ Christ’s name.

As the text reveals, because of these character qualities they received many promises from God. Today as we move through part two we will witness the amazing and fruitful work of the Philadelphian’s, both historically (*during the time of John’s writing – 91 AD - 96 AD*) and doctrinally (*throughout that particular period in church history – 1500 AD – 1900 AD*). Let’s prepare our hearts to be challenge by this church as we are called to be Philadelphian’s while living in this present Laodicean age.

Historically – 91 AD – 96 AD

- Philadelphia is an inland city located approximately 125-150 miles from the coast.
- The city is located in a very wide and beautiful valley with the Cogamis River running through its center. It is established on four or five hills with wooded laurels and gardens in such a picturesque setting that would seem to make the inhabitants feel safe and secure. However, it is very susceptible to earthquakes and was almost completely destroyed on several occasions. In contrast, this made it a dangerous place to live.
- The inner workings of the city’s livelihood were based upon local trade. It was not known as a city of international commerce. The wealthy citizens were primarily a middle class who made their money on small business and local service trades.
- Because of its outer distant location it was a fortress city used to waylay enemy forces who would come to destroy the greater cities of Asia Minor – Ephesus, Smyrna and Pergamos. The Greeks considered it to be a land of Barbarians.
- The Greek culture totally dominated the area – it was called “little Athens.”
- Pagan temples and Greek cults were prevalent. The Jewish population was often persecuted by the Greeks – in turn they, along with the Greeks ridiculed and persecuted the Christians of Philadelphia.
- The Jewish population bitterly blasphemed Christ and vehemently opposed the Bible as a final authority. It was common for believers to be reported by the Jews to local magistrates for punishment. This was done in an effort to deflect Jewish persecution from the same authorities.
- Although the church was troubled and not wealthy it reached many people for Christ, and sent out an unusual amount of missionaries to start other churches throughout Asia.
- The Philadelphian church valued the word of God; they are known for their tenacious obedience to the scriptures, their burden for lost souls, and their love and worship of Jesus Christ.

Doctrinally – 1500 AD – 1900 AD

- The Philadelphia Church Period begins with the close of the _____ Ages and ends at the conclusion of the 19th Century, the time known as the “Modern _____ Age.”
- During the Philadelphia Church Period the Bible is back in the hands of the _____ man. With the invention of the _____ press, all men could eventually obtain a _____ copy of God’s Word.

- This glorious period is countered by atheism and intellectualism from men like Spinoza, Hegel, Kant, Freud, Huxley, Marx, and Darwin. Human thought processes are dissected as psychoanalysis and psychotherapy ultimately come along in an attempt to _____ the wisdom of God given through the scriptures.
- The church of the Philadelphian period possesses the “_____ of David” - They have an _____ to the world because God said they “_____ my word” ... “And hast not denied my name”...
- During the Philadelphian church period there are seven main English translations leading up to the _____ that launched the greatest period in church history:

*Psalm 12:6-7 – The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified **seven** times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt **preserve** them from this generation for ever. (Emphasis added)*

- 1) The Wycliffe Bible (1382)
- 2) The Tyndale Bible (1525)
- 3) The Coverdale Bible (1535)
- 4) The Matthew Bible (1537)
- 5) The Great Bible (1539)
- 6) The Geneva Bible (1560)
- 7) The Bishops' Bible (1568)

- The devil does not sit still because he knows the _____ of God rests in his preserved word (being believed on in the world). Satan launches major counter attacks - Three known attempts to prohibit the next (*Eighth*) version:
 - 1) Pope Sixtus V, King Philip of Spain and the Spanish Armada (May 29, 1588) -
 - 2) The assassination attempt of King James I (October 26, 1605) -
 - 3) The Roman Catholic Douay-Rheims Bible (1610) -
- The _____ version cannot be prevented; The Monarch of books – The King James Version of 1611 (*also called the Authorized Version*) is produced. A brief description of the events is as follows:
 - Queen Elizabeth _____ in 1603...
 - She never married, thus there was _____ direct heir to the throne of England.
 - Her nephew, James VI of Scotland was proclaimed James I, King of England.
 - On his way to the throne he is approached by a delegation of pastors with a list of grievances against the Church of England. It had been signed by _____ Puritan ministers, thus becoming known as the “*Millenary Petition*.”
 - King James said that the grievances would be addressed at a conference to be held on January 14-18, 1604 at Hampton Court.
 - Invited to the conference were _____ Puritans, _____ Bishops, _____ Clergymen, and _____ professors from Cambridge and Oxford.
 - At the conference, John Reynolds (*A Puritan*) would make a request of the king that would change the course of history... “*May your majesty be pleased...to direct that the Bible be now translated, such versions as are extant not answering to the original.*”
 - James recognized that England needed a translation that would _____ the country behind a single English Bible.
 - The Great Bible was too cumbersome...the Geneva Bible was too controversial ...the Bishop's Bible was too careless...
 - On July 22, 1604, King James placed his official _____ on the proposal... “*That a translation be made of the whole Bible, as consonant as can be to the original Hebrew and Greek; and this to be set out and printed, without any marginal notes, and only to be used in all churches of England, in time of Divine service.*”

- On that same date, King James announced he had selected _____ men to translate the new Bible.
 - The qualification required of each man was that he be a proven scholar.
 - The meticulous work began in 1607...
- England was now destined to become the greatest, most powerful _____ in the world. Its conquests would carry them to _____ continent – They would have an English Bible that would accompany them. Ultimately, they would propagate that glorious book to the entire planet as “_____” would become the universal language!
 - The Philadelphian church period is the time when the Bible texts from Antioch, Syria were translated into German (*Martin Luther’s German Bible*), English (*King James Version of 1611*), and over _____ various languages around the world...
 - This is the time when _____ speaking missionaries took God’s preserved Word to the ends of the Earth. Some of the key men were:

Philip Spener (1635-1705)
 Herman Francke (1663-1727)
 Count Zinzendorf (1700-1760)
 Richard Baxter (1615-1691)
 George Fox (1624-1691)
 John Bunyan (1628-1688)
 Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758)
 John Wesley (1703-1791)
 George Whitefield (1714-1770)
 David Brainerd (1718-1747)
 Samuel Seabary (1729-1796)
 Christian Schwartz (1726-1798)
 Henry Martyn (1781-1812)
 John Clark (1609-1676)
 Samuel Mills (1783-1818)
 Billy Bray (1794-1868)
 Robert Morrison (1782-1834)
 Joshua Marshman (1766-1837)
 Samuel Marsden (1764-1838)
 Peter Parker (1804-1888)
 Samuel Nott (1788-1864)
 Wilfred Grenfell (1866-1940)
 Alfred Saken (1814-1880)
 Francis Gardiner (1794-1851)
 John Geddie (1815-1872)
 Adoniram Judson (1788-1850)
 William Carey (1761-1834)
 Robert Moffat (1795-1883)
 George Mueller (1805-1898)
 David Livingstone (1813-1873)
 Hudson Taylor (1833-1905)
 Jonathan Goforth (1859-1936)
 C.T. Studd (1862-1931)
 William Tennent (1673-1746)

- The church of the “Open Door” in Philadelphia will, in the next church period, become the church of the “_____ Door”...
 - God gave England His preserved Word. They fell in love with it, thus falling in love with Him. When this happened, believers were _____ for the lost...
 - Because England was faithful to the _____, God blessed England... she became the greatest nation on Earth.
 - Her God fearing citizens took the _____ to the world... including America!
 - God raised up more men and women to propagate His truth. They were faithful in their mission to preach the gospel, to preach and teach God’s preserved Words. _____ received God’s supernatural blessing...
 - Doors were _____ to the entire planet for God’s English speaking missionaries during “Philadelphia”...
 - Doors were opened because they had the “_____ of David”...
 - The devil was not happy with this world-wide evangelistic activity. In the past, as men and women were martyred, the church _____! His plan to stop the work of God had to be _____. The Word of God (*the Key of David*) was too powerful for him to defeat!
 - What the devil could not accomplish through persecution and slaughter, he was able to do through _____ and intellectualism..
 - Ultimately, England traded in her English Bible (*the Bible God gave to them to escape the power of Rome... the Bible that launched the Philadelphian Church Period*) for a _____ imitation.
 - Ultimately, America too traded in her English Bible (*the Bible God gave England to escape the power of Rome...the Bible that stirred our American founding Fathers to freedom.. the Bible that launched the Philadelphian Church Period*).
 - The Revised Version of 1881 in England gave rise to the American Standard Version of 1901... these Bibles were _____ “revisions” of the KJV, but were in fact completely _____ Bibles, translated from the _____ texts of the Roman Catholic Church, traced all the way back to Egypt (*Africa*) and the false teacher, the demonic kingpin of all corrupt Bibles, the pseudo-Christian, Origen.

- The “_____” is now gone, the door is now _____. We will now enter the Laodicean church period, the most _____ time in human history.

Devotionally – Present time 2007 AD

- Can we be a Philadelphian church living in a Laodicean time?