

## **Sermon—Letter to Church in Philadelphia—Revelation 3:7-13**

- I. Key of David (v.7) (Centrality of Jesus)**
  - a. David- greatest king of Israel; key= who can get into see the king (*Isa. 22:22*)
  - b. Jesus holds the key of David—power to grant access into the Kingdom!
  - c. Why was the door shut? Human sinfulness; humankind shut out of the Garden of Eden where they could dwell with God
  - d. Jesus now opened the door and no one can shut it; c.f. *Matthew 27:50-51*—the barrier to God’s presence (represented in the Temple) has been removed
  
- II. V. 8—Words of Affirmation (Jesus’ Upside-Down Kingdom Status)**
  - a. When Jesus opens a door, no one can shut it
  - b. It is not our power or wisdom that gets us right with God
  - c. Simply put our faith in him; in His name, not our own name
  - d. Despite their ‘little power’ they have stayed faithful; sometimes think having more ‘worldly resources’ will make us better Christians
  
- III. V. 9—Synagogue of Satan—Opposition to God’s People and the Gospel**
  - a. In some places, the main opposition came from Jewish community; God’s enemy was using those who were supposed to be following God to hinder the kingdom (takeaway should not be anti-Jewish, but humbly aware that *Satan could do the same with false-Christianity*. (consider early Anabaptist persecution)
  - b. Keep pointing to Jesus (graciously and humbly) despite pressures; your faithfulness will be vindicated if not in this world, then in the age to come
  
- IV. Vv. 10-11—Hold fast to the good news**
  - a. Patient endurance—We cannot expect instant results to prayer
  - b. We keep his Word; social rules keep changing; *His words* last forever
  - c. Crown—represents the works we do for God that will have eternal significance
  
- V. Vv. 12-13—We bear his name and his message of eternal life**
  - a. Pillar in the temple- temple was the place a person would approach God; we are now the embodiment of God’s temple
  - b. Bear his name—we are Christ’s own; He is our identity
  
- VI. So what?**
  - a. God can and does open doors for us to bring the gospel to others? What doors do you see in your personal life? What doors do you see for Beech?
  - b. When you pray, are you praying for doors to open? (*Col. 4:2-6*)
  - c. When you are faithfully living out God’s willing by responding to open doors and bringing the gospel to people, you can expect there will be resistance. Don’t give up, stand firm! Keep praying!
  - d. Let us measure ministry success by God’s standards, not the world’s; it’s about being faithful to Christ, and faithful to the doors he opens to us