

**HOUSE OF FAITH CHRISTIAN CENTER**  
**“A GRACE TO FOLLOW GOD’S SON IN 2021!”**  
**August 15, 2021**

**“And Jesus called [to Him] the throng with His disciples and said to them, If anyone intends to come after Me, let him deny himself [forget, ignore, disown, and lose sight of himself and his own interest] and take up his cross, and [joining Me as a disciple and siding with My party] follow with Me [continually, cleaving steadfastly to Me.]” Mark 8:34 (Amplified Version)**

**FOLLOWING JESUS THROUGH THE 7 CHURCHES IN REVELATION**

**Introduction:** As followers of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in these end times, we find ourselves faced with the inquisitive and mind-boggling question; “What is the church going to be in the world today?” It is very vital and crucial for all who are in the church to first understand and give an affirmative response to **Five (5)** important questions. 1) Who am I? 2) Where did I come from? 3) Why am I here? 4) What can I do? 5) Where am I going? As we prepare ourselves for whatever awaits ahead, we can learn from the experiences of the 7 Churches in Revelation who experienced 1) True Godliness; 2) Sound Doctrine 3) Solid Teachers with Character; 4) Sober Worship; 5) Discipline of Prayer; 6) Hunger for Holiness; 7) Triumph over Tribulation.

**Today’s Message: The- Church at Philadelphia: “The Faithful Church”**

**See Revelation 3:7-13.**

Philadelphia which means “Brotherly Love; was a small city located 40 miles southeast of Sardis. Its location, vine-yards, and wine production made it wealthy and commercially important. In his assessment of the church at Philadelphia, Jesus Christ gives no criticism, no rebuke, no warning, only advice. Because of this, the church of Philadelphia is still standing today with its Christian testimony of God’s goodness.

- 1. Introduction Vs 7.-**Jesus Christ is Described in four (4) ways:
  - 1)** He is Holy-Jesus is worthy to judge the Church at Philadelphia
  - 2)** He is True-Jesus is Authentic, Genuine, and the He is the “Real Deal”
  - 3)** He who holds the key to David-David represents the Messianic throne and key represents the authority. Jesus Christ Reigns Forever.
  - 4)** He is omnipotent-Jesus is all-powerful in that he alone has the power to open doors and no one can shut; and close doors that no one can open.
- 2. Commendation Vs. 8-**The Church at Philadelphia was recognized, commended and praised because of their Focus in three (3) Areas:
  - 1)** They focused on Opportunities instead of Obstacles. **Vs. 8a**  
They took advantage of every opportunity to minister to others Jesus Christ  
They overcame the Obstacle of Powerlessness. **See 2 Corinthians 12:7-10**  
They overcame the Obstacles of Persecution. **2 Timothy 3:10-12**

2) They focused on Faithfulness instead of Fear. **Rev 3:8b- 11**

- A. They kept Jesus words
- B. They did not deny Jesus Name
- C. They patiently endured

Based on these actions; they shall receive two (2) Promises

- 1. They will be kept from the Hour of Testing. 7 year Tribulation-Period
- 2. Jesus can come at any time, and they will not lose their reward

3) They focused on the Eternal instead of the Temporal. **Rev 3:12-4 Promises**

- 1. He promises a Pillar in God's Temple-Eternal and Everlasting Security
- 2. He promises God's Name-Ownership-We belong to God
- 3. He Promises God's City Name-Eternal Citizenship in the New Jerusalem
- 4. He Promises My New Name-Eternal Relationship

#### **Conclusion: Four (4) Takeaways-The Local Church**

- 1. **The Potential of the Local Church**-When we are total committed to the Lord Jesus Christ, there will be doors of opportunities. **See 1 Corinthians 16:9**
- 2. **The People of the Local Church**-Building the church is not up to us. We depend upon Jesus Christ who is the Head of the church to give His Body the strength it needs.
- 3. **The Principles of the Local Church**-When the teaching of Jesus Christ is the top priority, everything else will fall into place.
- 4. **The Priorities of the Local Church**-Because the church belongs to Jesus Christ, we proclaim that His Name is the only name in which we can be save

#### **(3) Confessions regarding the Church of Philadelphia: The Faithful Church**

- 1. I confess that Jesus Christ is my Lord and I will follow Him.
- 2. I confess that I will focus on Opportunities instead of Obstacles; Faithfulness instead of Fear; and the Eternal instead of the Temporary.
- 3. I confess that I hear what the spirit of God is saying to me. Right now! And He is saying that I am Victorious!

#### **PRAYER OF COMMITMENT**

**Father in the Name of Jesus, I thank you that Jesus Christ is my Lord and I will follow Him. Because of your love for me, I will focus on opportunities instead of obstacles; faithfulness instead of fear; and the Eternal instead of the Temporary. I thank you that I hear what the Spirit of God is saying to me right now. And He is saying that I am Victorious. As I realize this, I understand that you have given me a "Grace to Follow Your Son in 2021. In Jesus Name. I pray. Amen.**