Faithful Church- Revelation 3:7-13

There are several groups that call themselves a church but aren't. (If you don't even know who Jesus really is, you certainly will not understand what His church looks like.)

A true revived church has a hungering and thirsting for righteousness.

Matthew 5:6 (ESV)
[6]"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Philadelphia- "love of the brethren".

John 13:34–35 (ESV)
[34]A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.
[35]By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

- We talk a lot about that, but do you think it's true?

Romans 12:9–10 (ESV)
[9]Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.
[10]Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. (KJV-prefer)

- There is nothing that **brings more unity than a unified love for God's Word and mission**. (There is more to that statement than what is seen on the surface.)

Philadelphia was called "little Athens" but it had a problem- earthquakes. (Temples)

Revelation 3:7 (ESV)
[7]"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: 'The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.

.1. Jesus the Holy One- He is saying that He is God. (He also says He is the True One.) If a place that **calls themselves a church and doesn't know this**, and **don't follow His Word as truth…** well!) His word is true because He is truly God. **The genuine article**!

a. The angel of this church- messenger/pastor.
b. Key of David- The door into the kingdom of heaven. (John 14:6- The way, truth, light.)
c. Salvation is through Jesus Christ; He is the only way. (Thus, the gospel!)
d. Philadelphia was getting to experience revival.
e. They had an open door!

Revelation 3:8 (ESV)
[8]" 'I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

- They had some power! Why? (Keeping God's Word and proclaimed what made Jesus who He is!)
- Dunamis- power. (But they were small and weak!) But dependent on Jesus!

Acts 2:42–47 (ESV)
[42]And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.
[43]And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.
[44]And all who believed were together and had all things in common.
[45]And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.
[46]And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,
[47]praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

- They loved the Word, loved the mission of Jesus, and Jesus Himself.

f. They loved it so much, they were loyal. (To each other, Jesus.) **They were a church on mission**.
g. They had opportunity- (When a door of opportunity opens, some walk through it!)

For the lost-

John 10:9–10 (ESV)
[9]I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.
[10]The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.
For the disciples (saved on mission)
Colossians 4:2–4 (ESV)
[2]Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.
[3]At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—
[4]that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

2. Jesus draws near to those who draw near to His mission- (Churches on mission)

John 15:4–9 (ESV)
[4]Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.
[5]I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.
[6]If anyone does not abide in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.
[7]If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.
[8]By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

[9]As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.

- Abide- **attached to Jesus is where we thrive (**Outside of this- nothing)
- Why waste our life? Why be a church that is powerless?
- Are you a disciple? Fruit Do you love Jesus? Disciple

Revelation 3:9–10 (ESV)
[9]Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you.
[10]Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.

a. We have discussed how the Jews had lost their way. (We are grafted in to continue)
b. If the synagogues weren't teaching the true gospel- synagogue of Satan. (I'm sure we have our share these days.)
c. Paul talks about this in Romans 11.

Romans 11:26–27 (ESV)
[26]And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, "The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob";
[27]"and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins."

d. **Despite trials daily, the big one, tribulation, is totally avoidable**. (Verse 10)
e. **This is powerful encouragement**. (Note: "keep you from" or "take you out"!

Revelation 3:11–13 (ESV)
[11]I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.
[12]The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.
[13]He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

- Coming quickly, or coming soon- it shows the "suddenness of His coming"
- Our rewards are in heaven mostly, don't squander that! (Fruit!)
- Pillar- Nothing will be left here, but we will be a permanent fixture of heaven!
- Will bear His name- We will have our id's! **proof of citizenship**!
- He who has an ear- **know that faithful service in churches like Philadelphia is not futile, it is everlasting and goal worthy**!