

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

chapter 3:7-13

Lesson 7

The church in Philadelphia received no words of rebuke from Jesus. He knew they had *little strength* and encouraged them to *hold fast to what they had*, promising them much strength and stability when He would *come quickly* for them. May you be encouraged to focus not on your *little strength*, but on the strength of the One who is *holy* and *true*.

OBSERVATION: Read Revelation 3:7-13

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to the *Father*, *Jesus*, and the *Holy Spirit*. You may find it difficult to identify whether a word is speaking of the *Father* or *Jesus*. For the purposes of this study, mark the words both ways.
Key Words: *God/Father*, *Jesus*, *(Holy) Spirit*, and *overcomes*
3. The contrasting word *but* is used in verse 9. Mark the word and record what is being contrasted.
4. Make a list of what these verses clearly reveal about Jesus.

5. On your Observation Worksheet, underline (in different ways or colors) and list below the phrases which reveal:
 - a. the actions Jesus praised
 - b. the instruction Jesus gave to them
 - c. the promises Jesus made

DESCRIPTION OF JESUS: Read Revelation 3:7

1. What church was to receive the message of Revelation 3:7-13?
2. Find Philadelphia on the map below and circle it.



3. Record the attributes of Jesus described in verse 7.
 - a. These attributes of Jesus are not mentioned in Revelation 1. However, other Scriptures testify that these attributes indeed belong to Jesus. What do the following verses teach us about Him?

Acts 3:14

1 John 5:20

Isaiah 22:22

- 1.) What are your thoughts as you consider the wonder of Scripture verifying Scripture?

4. According to Revelation 3:7, what authority does Jesus exercise?
 - a. In your own words, define an authority than can open and shut doors that no one else can.
 - b. What promise did Jesus offer in Matthew 7:7-8?
 - 1.) What are the conditions of this promise?
 - 2.) What impact does the fact that you have access to the only One who can *open and shut* certain doors have on you?

I KNOW: Read Revelation 3:8,10

1. *I know your works* (Revelation 3:8). Before Jesus spoke of what He knew about their *works*, what did He say He had done?
 - a. What do we learn about *open doors* from the following verses?

John 10:7-9

2 Corinthians 2:12

Colossians 4:3
2. Jesus knew their *works*. What else did Jesus *know* about them from verse 8?
 - a. Jesus commented that they had *a little strength*. How might Jesus' promise in the first part of the verse encourage them?
 - 1.) Gratefully record the words of Philippians 4:13.
 - a.) What do these words mean to you?

- b. Jesus also commented that they had *kept His word* and had *not denied His name*. Use synonyms to define the words:

kept

denied

- 1.) Describe the kind of life that *keeps Jesus' words* and does *not deny His name*.
3. What additional *work* did Jesus *know*? Verse 10
- a. Using synonyms, define the word *persevere*.
- b. What are some antonyms of the word *persevere*?
- 1.) What are some truths you use to remind yourself when you are tempted to give up and not *persevere*?

I WILL: Read Revelation 3:9

1. What group of people did Jesus address in Revelation 3:9?
- a. These people were also troubling the church of Smyrna. What do we learn about them from Revelation 2:9?
2. What did Jesus say He would do to these people?
- a. The Jews had *shut the doors* of the synagogues to Christians. One day the tables will be turned. How does knowing that one day, those who have wronged you because of your faith, will know that this Jesus they rejected loves you?
3. What does it mean to you personally to know that Jesus will right all wrongs?
4. Why is it best to allow Jesus to take care of those who have wronged you?
Challenge: Use Scripture to support your answer.
- a. How is your perspective changed when you trust Jesus in this way?

HOLD FAST: Read Revelation 3:11

1. Record the words of Revelation 3:11 by filling in the blanks.

Behold ___ *am* _____! _____ *what you* _____,
that _____ *may* _____.

2. Reflect upon Jesus telling them that He is *coming quickly*. Why might these words be a source of comfort to this church?

- a. In what ways are these words a source of comfort to you?

- 1.) Take a moment and list words or phrases that come to mind when you think of Jesus coming.

2. In light of this declaration, that Jesus is *coming quickly*, what did Jesus exhort the church in Philadelphia to do?

- a. As a believer, what are some things that you *have*?

- 1.) Explain what it would mean for you to *hold fast to what you have*?

- b. What might be the consequences of not *holding fast to what you have*?

TO HIM WHO OVERCOMES: Read Revelation 3:12,13

1. What will Jesus *make him who overcomes*?

- a. A *pillar* symbolizes stability and strength. Refer back to verse 8. What did Jesus know about their *strength*?

- b. How does this promise of one day being a *pillar* encourage you when you feel like you have *little strength*?

2. *...and he shall go out no more...* The overcomer will have a place of permanence and stability with God, in contrast to an uncertain place in this world. What are some synonyms for the words “permanence” and “stability”?
 - a. In what ways do these two words describe heaven?
3. What three names will Jesus write *on* those *who overcome*?
 - a. Names not only reflect who we are, but who we belong to. In these days that encourage independence, what does it mean to you to be marked by Jesus as His?

REVIEW: Read Revelation 3:7-13

1. What does it mean to you that Jesus is *holy* and *true*?
2. In what ways were you encouraged by this lesson to consider all you have and to *hold fast* to those things?
3. Consider the words of Revelation 3:13. Share one thing you *heard*.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
- 2 Timothy 4:7

Observation Worksheet

Revelation 3:7-13

⁷ "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "*He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens*": ⁸ I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. ⁹ Indeed I will make *those* of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie--indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. ¹⁰ Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. ¹¹ Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. ¹² He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. 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 out of heaven from My God. And *I will write on him* My new name. ¹³ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." '