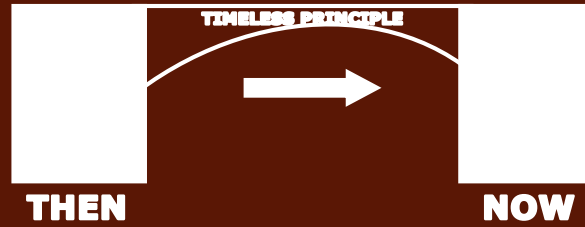


**The phrase,  
“don’t eat the  
meat sacrificed  
to idols”- how  
does that apply in  
today’s culture?**



# Teaching for Results



FOR FACTS ASK:  
**SO WHAT?**

FOR APPLICATION ASK:  
**YES, BUT HOW?**



## 7 CHURCHES IN REVELATION

Ephesus  
Smyrna  
Pergamum  
Thyatira  
Sardis  
Philadelphia ✓  
Laodicea



## Let's Review...

	Ephesus 2:1-7	Smyrna 2:8-11	Pergamum 2:12-17	Thyatira 2:18-29	Sardis 3:1-6
Commendation (I know your...)	Good works, labor, patience	Works, tribulation, poverty	Hold firmly to My name, did not deny My faith	Good works. Love, service, faith, patience.	None.
Condemnation	You have left your first love	No condemnation	Hold the teaching of Balaam and Nicolaitans	You allow Jezebel to teach idolatry and compromise.	You are dead. Your works are incomplete.
Counsel	Remember from where you are fallen and repent	Fear not. Be faithful.	Repent or I will wage war	Hold fast to what you have until I come.	Watch. Strengthen things that remain.
Challenge	Will give to eat of the tree of life	Will not be hurt by the second death	Will give some hidden manna and a white stone	Will give millennial leadership and the Morning Star.	Will be clothed in white. Name not blotted out of the book of life.



Pillars of Byzantine  
(330-1453) Church of St.  
John the Theologian (11<sup>th</sup>  
century)

**PHILADELPHIA**  
**(Alaşehir)**



## Philadelphia (Alaşehir- Allah-SHARE)

- Established in 189 BC by King Eumenes II of Pergamum.
- He named the city for the love of his brother, Attalus II (159–138 BC), who would be his successor.
- Located 30 miles southeast of Sardis on the Cogamis river.
- A border city to Mysia, Phrygia, and Lydia (open door).
- It was founded especially as a mission city to expand the Greek culture and language to Lydia and Phrygia.
- Newest of the seven churches. Small, but serious.
- Second to receive no condemnation (also Smyrna).
- Almost entirely destroyed in 17 A.D. by the Lydia earthquake.

## Philadelphia (Alaşehir- Allah-SHARE)

- Aftershocks continued for years. People were so afraid they lived in tents and lean-tos in the outskirts of the city (Strabo).
- Grapes were a principal crop. Domitian decreed all vineyards to be torn out of Philadelphia (they competed with the vineyards in Rome). Good volcanic soil.
- The description of Christ in this letter is not taken from John's vision in chapter 1.
- The door to the synagogue and Jewish society had been shut to them.
- Of all the churches, this church received the most praise and no criticism.



## Philadelphia (Alaşehir- Allah-SHARE)

- Judaism was an allowed religion, but not Christianity.
- Dionysis/Bacchus was the god of the city (grape/vineyard production).
- The church at Philadelphia was an open door to the East to evangelize.
- Called “mini-Athens” because of numerous temples to gods.

*Verse 7- “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this:*

*Father – Son – angel – John – pastor – church (1:1)*

- *angel*- pastor of the church.
- Not usual greeting of other churches
- *holy*- speaks to the nature of Jesus, who is God.



Verse 7- *“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this:*

- true*- genuine- He is genuinely God and genuinely man.
- key of David*- reference to Isaiah 22:22 (only other mention):

*Then I will put the key of the house of David on his shoulder; When he opens, no one will shut, When he shuts, no one will open.*

Verse 7- *“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this:*

- Shebna*- bad steward who God commanded to be cast aside.
- Eliakim*- good steward with access to Hezekiah the king (figure of Christ). He was a “head of state” who had access to all doors.
- Jesus is the key to access to God. Speaks of His omnipotence.



Verse 7- *“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this:*

• *open door*- to evangelism and expansion of the church. Also, could characterize Christians who were excommunicated from the synagogue and Jewish life. Jesus shuts the door on the unbelieving Jews.

- Acts 5:19, 12:10- Angel opens the door for Peter to leave prison.
- Acts 16:25- Paul and Silas freed from prison.
- Revelation 4:1- Door opened for John to see heaven
- Acts 16:16-17- Door closed to Paul on his second missionary journey

Verse 8- *‘I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have followed My word, and have not denied My name.*

- *know your deeds*- The omniscient Christ with “eyes of flame.”
- *Behold*- signifies a critical point.
- *open door*- (*thura*- large door locked with a heavy bolt) an opportunity to spread the gospel or for martyrdom as a door to God.



Verse 8- *'I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have followed My word, and have not denied My name.*

- 1 Corinthians 16:9- (Paul) ...for a wide **door** for effective service **has opened** to me, and there are many adversaries.
- 2 Corinthians 2:12- (Paul) Now when I came to Troas for the gospel of Christ and when a **door was opened** for me in the Lord.

Verse 8- *'I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have followed My word, and have not denied My name.*

- Colossians 4:3 (Paul) ... praying at the same time for us as well, that **God will open** up to us a **door** for the word, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; (Paul prayed for a door to open).
- Revelation 4:1 (John) After these things I looked, and behold, a **door** standing open in heaven...



Verse 8- *'I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have followed My word, and have not denied My name.*

- *little power*- Christians were few in number ("Little is much when God is in it." Kittie L. Suffield, 1924)
- *followed My word*- much more important than the size of their congregation. They were persecuted by Jews/Gentiles.
- *denied my name*- as opposed to ethnic Jews who were persecuting the Christians more than the pagans.

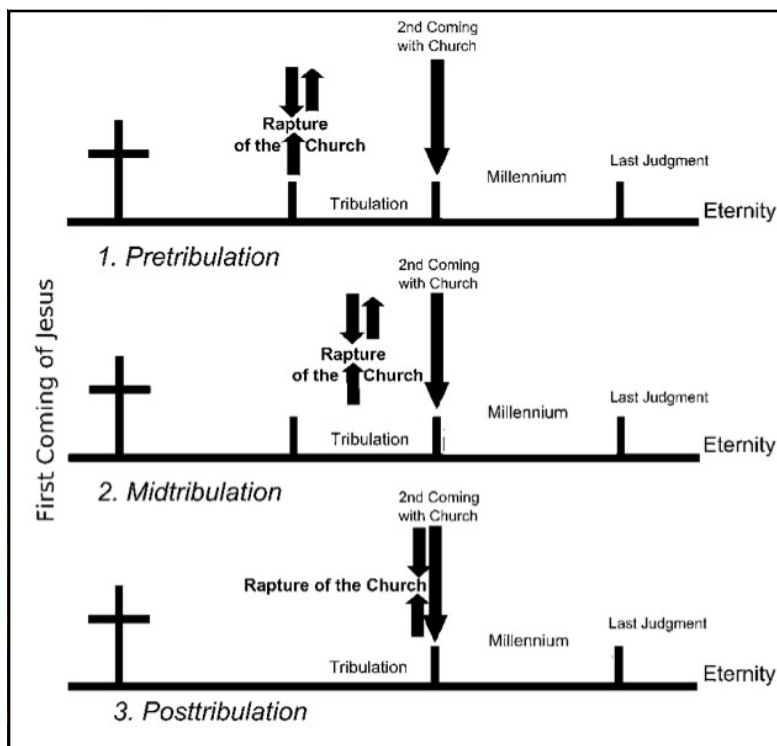
Verse 9- *Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and make them know that I have loved you.*

- *synagogue of Satan*- the Jews and those who worshiped the emperor and other false gods were antagonistic towards the small group of true believers (cp. church at Smyrna).
- *bow down before your feet*- speaks of the millennial reign of Christ and his followers over unbelievers.
- *I have loved you*- what Jews believed about themselves.



Verse 10- *Because you have kept My word of perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of the testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who live on the earth.*

- *will keep you from the hour of the testing-* (ek- out of) literally, “I will keep you out of the hour of testing.” Christians at Philadelphia (and all believers) will be kept out of the Great Tribulation.
- *you have kept My word* (definite article- *ton logon* “The Word- Scripture), and I will keep you (from the Tribulation).



Pre-  
Christ will return before the seven-year Great Tribulation.

Mid-  
Christ will return halfway through (3½ years) the seven-year Great Tribulation.

Post-  
Christ will return after the seven-year Great Tribulation.

The Latin translation (Vulgate) of 1 Thessalonians 4:17 used the word *rapturo* (*rapimur*). The Greek word is *harpazo*, which means “to snatch or take away.”



Verse 11- *I am coming quickly; hold firmly to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.*

- *quickly (tachus)*- the manner of His coming, not the time (cp. *A thief in the night*).
- *hold firmly*- grab on tightly. Don't lose ground.
- *take your crown*- (*stephanos*) a victor's crown. They were not in danger of losing their salvation, but of forfeiting their reward like those in Sardis.
- Stronghold of Christianity into Byzantine empire (330-1453).

Verse 12- *The one who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; 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 My new name.*

*overcomes*- those who are saved.

Four promises:

1. He will make them a *pillar*- Philadelphia was shaken frequently by earthquakes. They will be permanent testimony.



Verse 12- *The one who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; 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 My new name.*

2. He will write God's name on them- (on their foreheads? 14:1, 22:4) they belong to God, not the ones persecuting them.

3. He will write the name of the city of God on them- they will be citizens of a new city.

4. He will write a new name on them (cp. 2:17 Pergamum).

Verse 12- *The one who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; 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 My new name.*

After the Lydia earthquake of 17 A.D., all that was left of many of the temples in Philadelphia were the pillars (Josephus-historian).

People write on us every day- for good and bad, but the Lord's writing will be permanent.



Verse 13- *The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'*

*who has an ear-* Jesus says this to all seven churches. They once again stress the fact that the message of these letters is meant for all the churches in every age and place.

**Next week...**

Finish Chapter 3 -  
The Message to Laodicea

