

TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES IN ASIA

PERGAMUM

SMYRNA

THYATIRA

SARDIS

PHILADELPHIA

EPHESUS

THE  
PHILADELPHIA  
LETTER

# Christ's Portrait

## The Holy One

- *“the holy one”* (ESV)
- *“the Holy One of Israel”* (32x in OT, 25x in Isaiah) — **Isaiah 5:24-25; 41:14; 43:3**
- Jesus is He! — **John 10:30-33**

## The True One

- *“the true one”* (ESV)
- God declared as truth — **Exodus 34:5-6; Deut. 32:3-4**
- Jesus rejected, but is the truth — **Romans 9:6, 14, 19; 15:8-9; 3:4; John 14:6; 18:37**

# Christ's Portrait

## He Who Has the Key of David

- Government and key upon shoulder — **Isaiah 9:6-7; 22:20-22**
- Official, God-appointed position of authority as King.

## He Who Opens and Shuts

- His administration, the function of His position — **Isaiah 22:22**
- Not mere ability, but activity!

# Christ's Praise

## Their Works of Opportunity

- *“an open door”* — symbolizing opportunity. (Kingdom opportunity — **Matthew 16:19; Isaiah 22:22**)
- *“I know your works”* — they seized the opportunity — **Ephesians 5:15-16**
- Evangelistic opportunity — **Acts 14:27; 1 Corinthians 16:9; 2 Corinthians 2:12; Colossians 4:3**

# Christ's Praise

## They Have Kept Christ's Word

- *“Kept”* = guard
- Through conserving its purpose — **Acts 3:19, 26; 11:18; Romans 1:16**
- Through living it — **Matthew 5:13-16; Titus 2:9-10**

## They Have Not Denied Christ's Name

- **(v. 9)** — where the Jews rejected Christ's name, the Philadelphians never compromised, but presented Christ as He is. **(Cf. Acts 17:3, 28-29)**

# Christ's Praise

## Their Little Strength

- All their work and faithfulness was despite *“little strength”* — numerical, financial, influence, etc.?
- Strength in Christ and His gospel — **2 Cor. 12:9-10; 4:7**

# Christ's Praise

## The Fruit of Their Labor

- (v. 9) — *“the synagogue of Satan”* (2:9)
- *“I will GIVE (didōmi) of the synagogue of Satan...I will make them come...”* (cf. John 6:37, 44-45)
  - Some of the Jews were given by Christ to come to Him and worship Him — conversion.
- *“and to know that I have loved you”* — recognition that Christians are the true people of God. (Cf. Isaiah 45:14)
- *“worship before their feet”* (cf. 1 Cor. 14:24-25)
- 1 Peter 2:11-12; Matthew 5:16 — Philadelphia's open door.

# Christ's Prescription

**Hold Fast What You Have (v. 11)**

**Christ Will Guard Them from Trial**

- *“Because you have kept the word of My perseverance”* (v. 10, NASB) (cf. Hebrews 12:2; 1 Cor. 1:23-24; 2 Cor. 13:4)
- *“I also will keep you”* — 1 Peter 1:5-6; 5:10

# Christ's Promise

## He Who Overcomes Will be Made a Pillar in the Temple of God

- The temple — **Revelation 7:15; 11:19** — before the throne of God in heaven.
- *“And he shall go out no more”* — stability and permanence.

## He Will Have Names Written On Him

- Relationship, identity, fellowship, possession. (**2:17**)
- The name of My God, the City of My God (**21:2**), My New Name (**cf. Colossians 3:4; 1 John 3:2**)

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