



Revelation 3:7-13

Part 1

## The Faithful Church: Present and Future

-- **Big Idea: The faithful church is identified by perseverance in the Gospel, holiness, and truth.**

### Non-Signs of Faithfulness

1.) \_\_\_\_\_ (Revelation 3:1)

2.) \_\_\_\_\_ (Revelation 3:17)

### Marks of the Faithful Church

#### 1.) Pursuit of \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 7a)

- Because Christ is immutably holy, any church that truly belongs to Him must be committed to the pursuit of holiness (Leviticus 19:2).
- Christ is redeeming for Himself a bride (the church), and what makes His bride beautiful is holiness (Ephesians 5:25-27).

#### 2.) Conviction of \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 7b)

- The Spirit of God is instilling the holiness of God in the people of God through the Word of God (Ephesians 5:25-27, John 17:17).
- If we would pursue holiness, then we must understand and obey God's truth.
- The preaching and teaching of Scripture is not just meant for our contemplation, but for our transformation.

#### 3.) \_\_\_\_\_ of the Gospel (v. 7c)

- "*Him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David*" is a reference to Isaiah 22:22.
- Much like Eliakim was given sole authority over the entrance to an earthly palace, Jesus Christ has sole authority over the entrance to eternal life (John 10:9, John 14:6).
- Everyone to whom the kingdom of God will be opened will enter it through the same door: Jesus Christ.
- The faithful church stands unwaveringly upon the Gospel as the only hope of salvation from sin.

#### 4.) \_\_\_\_\_ through Trials (v. 8, 10)

- For all of its spiritual depth, the church in Philadelphia still labored in weakness.
- Even though it was unheralded, it was not unholy; although little in size, it was lauded by the Lord.
- Though it may not have been popular or prosperous, it was blessed with something far more valuable—\_\_\_\_\_.
- Because of patient endurance, this little church in Philadelphia receives the most robust statement of encouragement from Jesus.

### Application

#### -- Focus on \_\_\_\_\_, let God take care of \_\_\_\_\_.

- In His letters to the churches, Jesus makes clear that bigger is not always better.
- Concentrate on substance of Christian living, and then let God take care of its scope.
- The call to "*hold fast to what we have*" is a call to holiness, truth, the exclusivity of the Gospel, and patient endurance in Christ.