

Holding Fast to What Christ Has
 Given Us
 Revelation 3:7-11

TO WHOM ARE THE LETTERS ADDRESSED?

1. 7 Historical churches (prev located in modern day Turkey)
2. The whole church, all time. 7 – completeness
3. Individuals in the churches:
 - He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. Cf Rev 13:9
4. Written to the “angel.” Luke 7:27, 2 Cor 12:7

1. OUR DEEDS/WORKS MATTER.

- “I know your deeds” 5 of 7 churches.
 - 6th church – Smyrna. Christ knew their tribulation, poverty and coming martyrdom.
 - 7th church – Pergamum. I know where you dwell - where satan’s throne is.... But
 - 1 Cor 3:12-15, each person’s work revealed.

BECAUSE OF PHILADELPHIA'S DEEDS:

1. Given an open doorway.
2. Promised blessings/rewards if they held fast:
 1. Kept from the hour of trib. V 10
 2. A crown is coming. V 11
 3. Greater heavenly rewards. v 12-13

2. DEEDS DEFINED. REV 3:8

A. You have kept my word.

- John 14:21, 23
- Acts 5:31-32
 - Had Christ's words;
 - They kept them
 - They acted on them in obedience.

2. DEEDS DEFINED (CONT)

B. You have not denied my name (3:8):

- V 3:9: Synagogue of satan:
- “Those who say they are Jews and are not”
 - They say they are god; bow down.
 - Roman Imperial cult requiring worship.
 - Caesar Augustus

HOW DO WE DENY THE NAME OF JESUS?

- Jesus is the holy one, the true one:
 - No one beside Him.
 - None other like Him.
 - Throne room of heaven – no one but the Lamb standing.
 - Matt 10:32-36

2. DEEDS DEFINED (CONT)

- C. “you have a little power:
 - (NIV “you have little strength”)
 - NOT: “you have enough power”
- Church had a little power so faith could take them through the open door.

3. BECAUSE OF THEIR “LITTLE” POWER:

- They had to persevere in faith in order hold on to what God had given them.
 - Rev 3:10-11.
 - Hebrews 12:2-3

4. HOLD FAST TO WHAT YOU HAVE

- What did they have?
- An open door Christ had put before them.
 - **1 Corinthians 16:9 (NASB)** for a wide door for effective *service* has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.
 - Col 4:2-4, Acts 14:27-28, 2 Cor 2:12.

