



Pastor Jason King // October 11, 2020

Letter to the Church in Philadelphia Living a Life that God Rewards

Revelation 3:7-13 (NIV)

Break the ice: If you could choose a different name, what name would you choose and why?

Pastor Jason encouraged us this week with a message about a church that received no criticism from Jesus. He wrote to them to encourage them in their season of testing. He recognized that they revered Jesus properly. He applauded them for continuing to be faithful even when the Synagogue had scorned them. The believers in the church at Philadelphia were tired from enduring their circumstances. Most of us have not experienced first century church levels of persecution. But, in this year, 2020, many of us have been tested beyond our limits. Pastor Jason mentioned that there could be weariness setting in.

1. The Church at Philadelphia were secure in the knowledge that Jesus was AWESOME! He held the keys to their destiny. Jesus wants to open doors for us. We need to ask Jesus to open doors for us!

REFLECT & DISCUSS:

- Do you revere Jesus in His holiness?
- Do you believe He tells the truth?
- Do you know that He holds the Key to your Destiny.
- Are you confident enough to actually ask God for Open doors?

2. The one who is faithful to share the good news of Jesus will be rewarded.

Read: Revelation 3:8

REFLECT & DISCUSS:

- Jesus sees our deeds.
- Jesus opens doors that NO ONE can shut.
- Do you get nervous or excited that Jesus sees you and your deeds?
- What reward do you hope for?

3. Revelation 3:9 tells us that God rewards and vindicates those who are persecuted for His name's sake.

REFLECT & DISCUSS:

- Have you experienced weariness this year?
- What has been particularly hard for you in 2020?
- Have you ever experienced persecution? Tell your group about your experience.
- What feelings come when you hear Jesus say to the Church at Philadelphia that God rewards and vindicates those who are persecuted for his name's sake?

4. God rewards the faithful by keeping them from the hour of trial. Revelation 3:10

REFLECT & DISCUSS:

- Pastor Jason talked about how history can be put in sections of “thousands”.
1000 years from Adam to Noah
1000 years from Noah to Abraham
1000 years from Abraham to David
1000 years from David to Jesus
2000 years from Jesus to now.

We are at the 6000 year mark. 7 is the number of completion, and since the millennial reign will be 1000 years, that could ***possibly*** mean that Jesus is coming soon. He may rescue us before, during or after the tribulation. Pastor Jason made us chuckle with his “Pan-trib” beliefs, saying that we will see how it all pans out. We can be confident that Jesus has us and will never leave us...even in tribulation.

Yet....as we Wait.....WE HAVE WORK TO DO!!! We are not called to sit and wait for the return of Jesus. We are called to continue to work and LIVE as unto the Lord until His return. The Church at Philadelphia was DOING what Jesus had given them to do despite the persecution toward them.

- Our job is to share Jesus with those around us & endure patiently as the world goes more and more chaotic.
- Who are you sharing Jesus with?
- What is your patience level on a scale of 1-10?

4. When we are sharing Jesus and enduring patiently, the promise is that God will reward you with a crown and with His name.

READ: Revelation 3:11&12 (NIV)

REFLECT & DISCUSS:

- “Crown” here alludes to the wreath that victors received at the end of a race or sometimes for military exploits. (IVP Bible Background Commentary New Testament.)
- The one who is victorious will be a pillar in the temple of God. This could mean his throne room in heaven according to the IVP NT Commentary. We will get to bear the new name of Jesus.
- In short, we will be with God. We will be with our Father. There will be no more waiting.

REFLECT & TAKE AWAY:

- What emotion do you feel when you ponder the fact that you will be WITH HIM?
- Journal or take time to imagine what that presence might be like. Try to imagine it....even though we really CAN'T! Take those images in your imagination and reflect on them throughout the week.

Additional Scriptures:

John 14:6 (NIV), Mark 10:45 (NIV), Luke 5:31-32 (NIV), John 11:25-26 (NIV), John 10:9 (NKJV), & Matthew 17:20 (NIV)