



Dear Church: Letter to Philadelphia October 20th / 21st

Speaker: Campus Pastor

Scripture: [Revelation 3:7-13](#)

Sermon Summary:

We think "little" is insignificant. Whereas God calls out "little" as substantial. The woman with two mites. The boy with the small lunch. And the church at Philadelphia. All little offerings...that God used in large ways. We will hone in on the Church at Philadelphia to talk about how endurance of a small group of people is of great value in the kingdom of God. What are you discounting in your life as "little" that God wants to pour His presence and power over to make significant?

Sermon Series Questions:

1. What did you think the letter meant to the original audience?
2. What do you think the letter means to the Church today?

Sermon Specific Questions:

1. When the letter refers to "little strength" that what we think is insignificant, God actually sees as something significant. What are you discounting in your life as "little" that God wants to pour His presence and power over to make significant?
2. Revelation 3 talks about how God opens doors of opportunity and invitation (v7-8). What are your doors of opportunity and what might God be pushing you towards?
3. What are doors of invitation that He is inviting you into?
4. Verse ten talks about the importance of "enduring patiently". What is God asking you to endure patiently? Where do you need to press in and tarry just a little bit longer in order to patiently pursue what God is asking of you? Who do you need to

surround yourself with in order to commit to the community that will help you endure?

5. The city of Philadelphia was positioned and built strategically to influence. What areas or people in your life do you have an opportunity to influence because of where God has put you? What does that look like for you practically?

Digging Deeper

Letters to the Seven Churches

As we study the *Letters to the Seven Churches* found within Revelations, we need to try to understand what **DID** it mean to the original audience **BEFORE** we try to understand what **DOES** it mean for us today. You do not have to be a Biblical scholar to study Scriptures! Yet, below you will find information, resources, and questions to guide you and your group in studying these letters together.

Geography of the City of Philadelphia

The city of Philadelphia served as a gateway to the east Asia Minor as an imperial post road. It was rebuilt and positioned for impact and influence to the cities around it, and for all those passing through to east Asia. It is located in the Kuzucan Valley, in modern day Turkey's province of Manisa. Its strategic location was one of the main reasons for its Hellenistic foundation. A communication link was needed from Pergamum via Sardis and Philadelphia to the Maeander Valley and the south highway.

Economy in the City of Philadelphia

The prosperity of Philadelphia was based on agriculture as well as from textile and leather production. In the fifth century CE the city was nicknamed "little Athens" because of its festivals and cults.

History in the City of Philadelphia

The glory of Philadelphia as a stronghold of Christianity was renewed in the days of the Seljuk and Ottoman attacks on the Byzantine Empire. Philadelphia maintained itself as an isolated Christian city in conquered territory and withstood two sieges with heroism. The name means 'brotherly love' and commemorates the loyalty and devotion of Attalus II (220-130 BCE) to his brother Eumenes II.

The city of Philadelphia is alive at the return of Christ and, whilst having little strength, it is highly praised. There are a number of aspects that are praised and a number of promises that are given that require further examination.

RE-READ REVELATION 3:7-13

Questions for the Church Today

1. How does the Church today relate to the Church in Philadelphia?
2. How has the Church today endured patiently?
3. How does the location of churches today affect the way it influences?