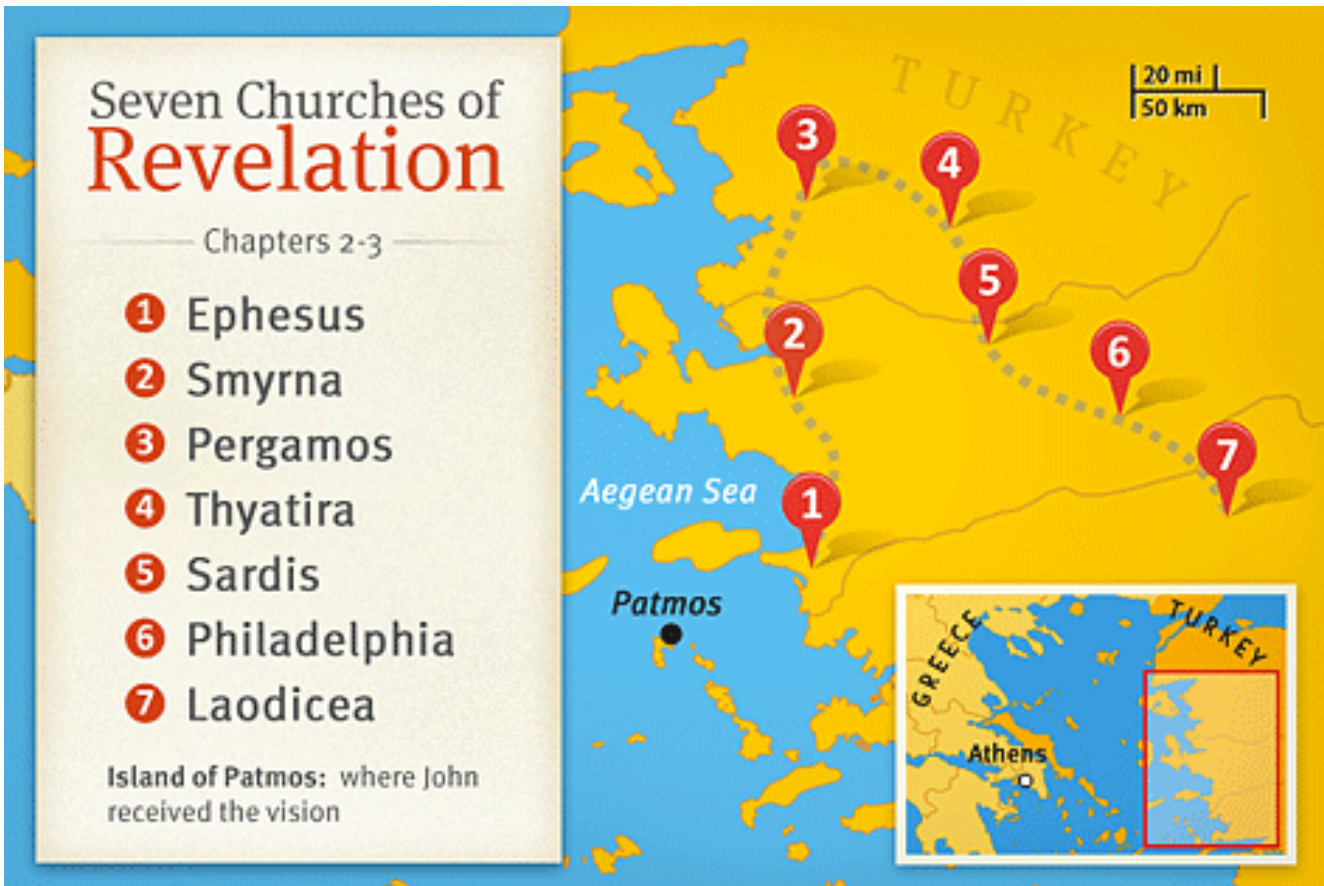




DISCIPLESHIP UNIVERSITY AT
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH
PROP 4500: REVELATION

Part VIII: Message to Philadelphia – Opportunity

THE CHURCHES OF ASIA



BACKGROUND: CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

- *The city of Philadelphia was about 28 miles southeast of Sardis, as you can see on your map. Like Sardis, it was situated in some fairly fertile land. The city sat on the banks of a small river, Cogamus, which was not a particularly important river. Its agricultural focus was vineyards and wine production.*
- *It is not as old as some of the other cities in these messages, being founded around 189 BC by the ruler of Pergamum, and the city was given its name based on the nickname of that ruler. The purpose for the city was that it would be the center for the spread of Greek culture throughout the region.*

- *Like Sardis, it was heavily damaged in the massive earthquake of AD 14, and again like Sardis, it was rebuilt through the generosity of the Roman emperor Tiberius, who had granted the city disaster aid. This region was particularly susceptible to both earthquakes and volcanic activity, which led to many of its residents living in fear of when the next “big one” would come. Indeed, the city has been destroyed by earthquakes on several occasions over the years.*
- *Also like Sardis, it was strategically located at the junction of trade routes. This made the city commercially important to the founders of the city. Being built on the slopes of the Tmolus mountains, it was also easily defensible.*
- *Today, the city is known as Allahshehr, or “the city of God,” in modern day Turkey.*

CHARACTERISTIC OF CHRIST

There are three characteristics of Christ found in this message (v. 7):

- *First, He is the _____.*
 - *What does “holy” mean? Isaiah 6:3*
 - *What does Christ mean when He describes Himself with this phrase? Cf. Isaiah 40:25, Isaiah 55:5, Hosea 11:9, Mark 1:24, John 6:69*
- *Second, He is the _____.*
 - *What does Christ mean when He describes Himself with this phrase? Cf. John 14:6*

- *What does Jesus' description of Himself here mean in regards to error, falsehood, and heresy?*

- *Third, He is the One who has the _____ of _____, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.*
 - *This phrase comes from Isaiah 22 and II Kings 18.*

- *What does the imagery of opening and shutting symbolize?*

- *Open and shut doors usually symbolize _____ in Scripture. There are usually two different kinds:*
 - *Salvation. Cf. Matthew 7:13-14, Luke 13:22-30.*

- *Service. Cf. Acts 14:27, I Corinthians 16:9, Colossians 4:3-4.*

- *What does the “open door” Christ has set before these weak people refer to (v.8)?*

CONDEMNATION

- *Is there any condemnation for the church at Philadelphia?*

CORRECTION

Though there is no condemnation, Christ does offer a preventative correction.

- *“Hold fast what you have, so that no one may
_____ your
_____” (v. 11).*
- *What is the church to hold fast to?*
- *What does Christ mean when He says, “...so that no one may seize your crown?”*

CONSEQUENCE

Again, because there is no condemnation, there is no consequence for continuing in the sinful actions.

A WORD TO THOSE WHO CONQUER

- *The one who conquers will be made a _____ in the _____ of God (v. 12).*
 - *What does this imagery bring to your mind, especially in light of the geological conditions that plagued Philadelphia?*

 - *We are called to be _____ in this world. When we are obedient to this calling, what do we receive in Heaven?*

 - *We are also engraved with the name of _____, the name of the _____, and the name of _____.* *What does it mean for the believer to have these?*

V. 13: “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”