

The Church of the Open Door

Revelation 3:7-13

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“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: ‘The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens. I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you...

Revelation 3:7-13, cont.

Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

The Cost of an Open Door

- The cost of faith and surrender
- The cost of commitment to God's word
- The cost of loving whom Jesus loves
- The cost of sending and going and supporting
- The Evangelical Mission Movement, from 1730's to today

Moravian Brethren

- Jan Hus, martyred in 1415, Protestant Moravian church began to exist 1450's
- 1722, a small remnant (300) settled in Herrnhut, Count Zinzendorf's land. He was a Pietist. "Little power"
- One out of every three were sent as missionaries: North American Indians, Caribbean, Greenland, South America, Africa, Asia. Founded Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, 1741
- 100 year prayer meeting

1. How Christ Described Himself, Rev. 3:7

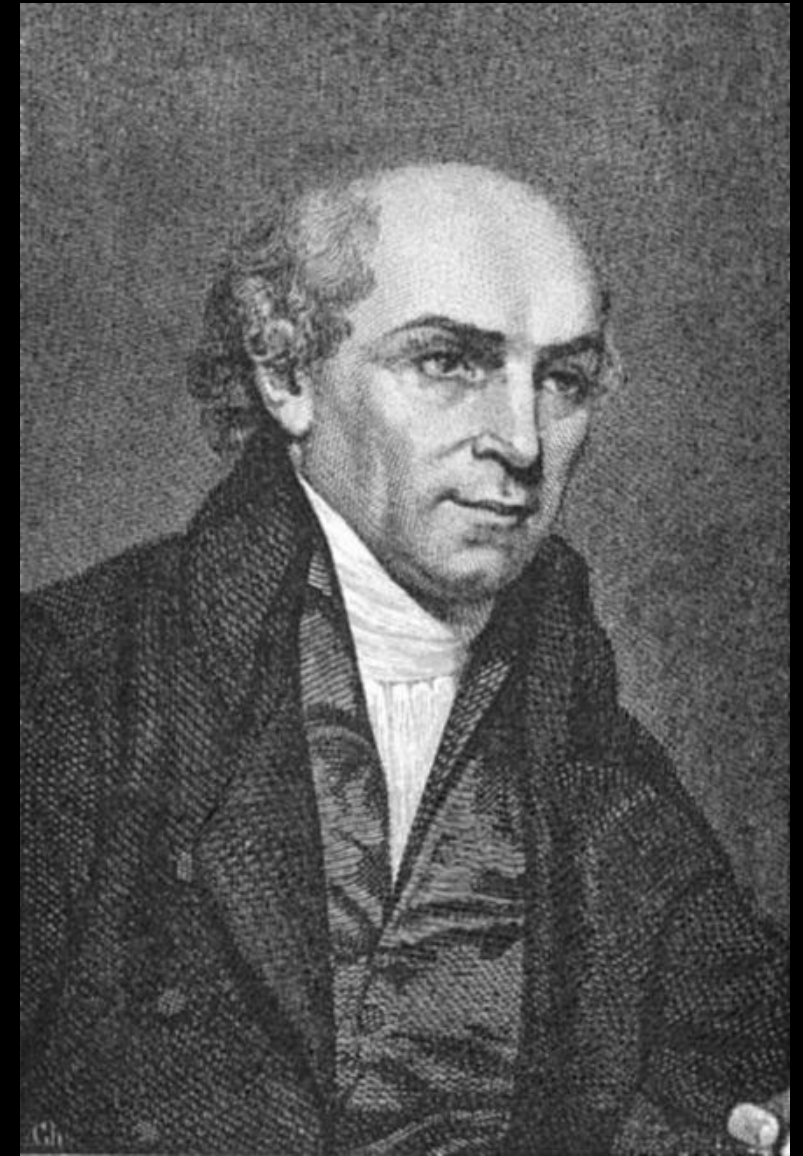
- **Holy: Jesus was set apart for a mission**
- **True: He has a message and He is the message**
- **The Key of David: Isaiah 22, prophecy about Shebna, the vain, unfaithful steward of the palace.**
- **Replaced by Eliakim: “He will be a father to the dwellers of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. I will place on his shoulder the key to the house of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open” (Isaiah 22:21-22).**

2. How Christ Evaluated the Church, 3:8-10

- **“Little power” but great faith. Open door of prayer.**
- **Kept Christ’s word (faith) and had not denied His name (preaching and teaching). Open door of witness.**
- **A Promise: “Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.”**

William Carey, 1761-1834

- David Brainerd, 1718-1747
- Carey read Brainerd's diary
- 1792 wrote, *An Enquiry into the Obligations of Christians to Use Means for the Conversion of the Heathens.*
- "Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God."
- 1793 he went to India



Expansion in Mission Work

- **1793 Baptist Missionary Society**
- **1795 London Missionary Society**
- **1814 Protestant American Missionary Society**
- **1824 Berlin Missionary Society**
- **Joshua Project: 7.75 billion world population, 3.23 billion people still unreached by the gospel: 7,408 people groups.**
- **“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come” (Matthew 24:14).**

3. How to Overcome

- **“Hold fast what you have:” overcome apathy, selfishness, doubt, objections, opposition, excuses, bad methods, etc.**
- **“The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.”**
- **Alignment with the purpose and heart of God: “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”**