



Leader

11/5 - Revelation 3:7-13

LOVE

A new commandment I give to you, that you love *one another*... (John 13:34)

- *Internal*: How was your week...anything new?! How was your walk with the Lord this week?
- *External*: Is there any individual or family who is struggling or needs encouragement from us?

TRUTH

Let the word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing *one another*... (Col. 3:16)

1. When you reflect on the message from Sunday, what most resonated with you?
[Dialogue]
2. Let's read the primary text. [Without looking!] Let's attempt to summarize each church so far in Revelation (one statement/church). How does Philadelphia compare?
 - Ephesus - Ensured strong doctrine, but lost their love for Christ and others.
 - Smyrna - Approaching suffering, Jesus calls them to not fear.
 - Pergamum - Many have accepted false teaching (Nicolaitans)
 - Thyatira - Had love for Christ and others, but tolerated false teaching (Jezebel)
 - Sardis - The dead church where Jesus provides no commendation
 - Philadelphia - The Great Commission church who held fast to the word.
3. The opening verses speak of Jesus being the keyholder or doorway. What other verses come to mind when you think about this verse?
 - **Rev 1:18** - "Christ holds the keys of death and Hades."
 - **Isa 22:22** - "I will place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; what he opens, no one can close; what he closes, no one can open."
 - **Jn 10:9** - "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture."
 - **1 Tim 2:5** - "For there is one God and one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus."
 - **Jn 14:6** - "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
3. Given that Jesus is the keyholder, how does this truth mesh with worldviews that affirm many paths to God? Does the Bible affirm that?
[Dialogue]
4. Does Jesus give preference to large or small churches? How does this passage bring clarification to that? How does this encourage you?
Verse 8 says that "I know you have but little power." The Church in Philadelphia might have been smaller and of little influence, but they kept the word and did not deny the name of Jesus. Jesus reminds that he sees them and knows them...well.

5. The new Jerusalem is a people and a place. How does this passage affirm that truth?
The one who conquers will be a pillar (unable to be removed) in the temple of God and will be marked with the identity of God (see v.12). God's people will be with God, in His presence, under His rule and blessing.
6. If you have faced any level of persecution or suffering in your life on behalf of Jesus Christ, how does this passage bring you hope?
[Dialogue]
7. In one word, how would you describe the church in Philadelphia?
[Example - steadfast, patient, conquerors]
8. Any closing thoughts concerning this text? What have you learned?
[Dialogue]

GREAT COMMISSION

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (Matt. 28:19-20)

- Did you disciple your family well this week? Is Jesus the reason for your hope in your daily activity?

CONFESSION/PRAYER/REPENTANCE

But exhort *one another* every day, as long as it is called "today,"... (Heb. 3:12-14)

- Confession is agreeing with God about our sin according to the Scriptures. Is there anything you want to confess before the group? [*apathy, idolatry, selfishness, jealousy, anger, envy*]
- Let's pray, asking God to help us apply His word to our lives, putting to death sinful desires.

HOMEWORK: Meditate on our weekly "Fighter Verse" - John 5:39-40. How did last week's verse affect you? Did it cause you to pause or change anything as you progressed through the week?

Akin, Danny. *Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in Revelation*. Pp. 89-99.