Homework Questions for Church at Philadelphia

**Sunday: Getting Started**

1. What stands out to you from the above and why?
2. Read aloud to yourself Revelation 3:7-13 and share anything that jumps out at you and why.

**Monday: Responding Well to Persecution**

3. Read Revelation 3:7-13 and answer:

A. To whom is the letter addressed?

 B. How is Jesus described and how might this be especially relevant to Philadelphia?

C. For what are they commended?

D. There is no rebuke. What is the only other church that receives no rebuke? What else did they have in common?

E. List the promises they are given.

4. How have you responded to persecution -- soft or hard? Be as honest as possible!

5. How should we respond to persecution according to the following:

A. Matthew 5:10-12.

             B. 1 Peter 3:13-17.

6. Pray in confession, repentance, or petition as His Spirit leads you.

**Tuesday: O Come Thou Key of David Come**

So many great hymns come from Isaiah 9 -- prepare your heart with Handel's from the introduction.

We also love the haunting lyrics of O Come O Come Emmanuel! This stanza is so relevant to our passage today. Sing it if you can to prepare your heart.

O come, Thou Key of David, come  
And open wide our heavenly home  
Make safe the way that leads on high  
And close the path to misery

It is Jesus who opens the door that no man can shut.  This refers not only to opening a door to hearts on earth but opening the door to heaven. In this passage Jesus is referred to as "the Key of David," and in Isaiah 22, we are told that God gave  Eliakim the key of David, so he is a foreshadowing of Jesus. The Bible is one great love story, as our own Laura has said. Every prophet, priest, slain lamb, suffering servant...foreshadows Jesus, the ultimate prophet, priest, slain lamb, suffering servant...  I think your heart will be moved to see the parallels in Isaiah between the earthly Eliakim and our Lord Jesus.

7. Again, how is Jesus described in Revelation 3:7 and how is this relevant to the church at Philadelphia?

8. In Isaiah 22, the prophet says God is deposing Shebna and replacing him with Eliakim. What is God going to do for Eliakim according to Isaiah 22:20-23?

9. How can you see that Eliakim is a dim foreshadowing of how Christ is described in Isaiah 9:6-7? How is Christ greater?

**Wednesday: Synagogue of Satan versus Temple of God**

10.  Read Revelation 3:8-9

A. What does verse 8 tell us that Jesus knows about this church? Based on this verse, what do you think this means and why?

 B. G. K. Beales and David Campbell write: *The Christian community at Philadelphia was small. In its own eyes, as well as the eyes of others, it may have seemed insignificant....Does our Christian culture place too much significance on size?*What do you think?

C. How are those who claim to be Jews described in verse 9, and what will God make them do one day?

11. Read Dr. Campbell's third paragraph under Philadelphia. What do you learn?

12. Just as there were nominal Jews (in name only) there are nominal Christians. And just as nominal Jews persecuted true Jews, nominal Christians persecute true Christians. What should be our response?

13. In Romans 9, 10, and 11 Paul has a lengthy discussion about the Jews, answering the question, "Has God forgotten them?" Though this is too much to go into, there seems to be a hope of restoration in Romans 11:11-12. Find it.

**Thursday: I Will Keep You From The Hour of Trial**

This is a hard passage that I pray will not divide us. Futurists would interpret this as the rapture, and Idealists would interpret this as being kept spiritually safe during tribulation, which they would see as the whole period between Christ's ascension and return.  We need to give grace here, for these are hard passages. I have come to agree with the Idealist view, but as one theologian said, "I reserve my right to change my mind in the air."

14. Read the two paragraphs beginning with "Because of their faithfulness in tribulation" from Dr. Campbell and answer:

A. Why does he think this does not refer to a secret coming when Christ takes believers out of this world?

 B. Whom does Scripture usually refer to by "those who dwell on the earth?"

15. How does it impact you to realize you will be kept spiritually in the hour of trial but not necessarily physically?

16. What are your beliefs about a secret coming of Christ for believers (the rapture)  and why?

**Friday: Hope and Encouragement for Those Who Persevere**

17. Read Revelation 3:11-12. What are we told to do and what are we promised?

18. Read Dr. Campbell's last paragraph and answer:

A. What comfort do you find?

             B. What warning?

**Saturday:**

19. What is your take-a-way this week and why?