



Campbell Chapel

Sermon by Bob Bradley



Walk Through the Door

Wednesday, April 25, 2018

Bob Bradley

We want to talk about the church at Philadelphia. This is found in Revelation 3. Read along with me.

Revelation 3:7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

Revelation 3:8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

Revelation 3:9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

Revelation 3:10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

Revelation 3:11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

Revelation 3:12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, *which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.*

Revelation 3:13 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

John is writing to the church at Philadelphia and about the church at Philadelphia. The word Philadelphia means, brotherly love. When you read about the church here at Philadelphia, you will not read one thing that Jesus says—He is not going to say here that He has one thing against this church.

When you read about the other six, you will read about, that there was always something that He addressed that was wrong in that church, whatever particular church it was; all of them except here at Philadelphia, you will find nothing here that Jesus is going to say that you need to change.

That is a good testimony. If Jesus Christ looks at our assembly and He can find nothing wrong with it then that is a great place to be. Don't you think? Here He is writing to the church at Philadelphia.

The city of Philadelphia itself—I don't know for sure how many people lived there during this time. I do know in AD 17, just by reading history that there was a great earthquake

that was there and the city was basically destroyed. We also know that when you read history, you will find out that Tiberias Caesar came along and re-established the city and rebuilt the city. We know that there were many tremors and different earthquakes that happened there. Also, in the city here, in the area here of Philadelphia; it was a place where a lot of vineyards grew. It was a place where they made wine. When you read history, you will find out that they had a big problem here in the city with people being drunks. This is where they made wine. There were all kinds of vineyards. Drunkenness, they had a big issue with drunkenness. I don't know how to pronounce—as I was reading today, I read about the, and I never did know this before, but they had a god there. They actually had a wine god that they worshiped in the city.

However, listen. God saved a bunch of people here. There was a church here and maybe different assemblies here in Philadelphia, and they were doing well. They were doing some great things even though it was in a place where a lot of wickedness. Anytime you have drinking, you have immorality. You have all kinds of other things that are going on when you have these things. There was a church here. The church was doing very well. God was blessing the church. The thing that makes the difference in this church above all these other six churches—He is going to mention is—is that when you read about what is going on here, Christ was the center of everything that they did. Every ministry, everything that they did, every program that they had, every time that they met and whatever was going on; it was a place where Christ was the center of that. He was the center of everything.

If we are going to live in a way that He is going to bless us then He has to be the center of our lives. Everything else in our lives has to be surrounded by Him. If He is just one of many things in our life then we don't get very far with God. Here is what is going to happen and I have to hurry along. The Bible says...

Jesus speaks unto the angel or unto the messenger, unto the pastor of this church, as he did all of the other churches. I thought today, if we would line a hundred people up that go to church and ask them what is the major, what is the job of a pastor. I got to thinking today. We hear all kinds of stuff. We hear all kinds of things that people thinks is the pastor's job. It is quite remarkable that when we ask them what their job is, many times they really don't know. They can tell you what the pastor's job is but they don't know what their job is.

The angel here of this church, the angel, the messenger, the pastor of any church; their main responsibility is to live in a way that the God of heaven will speak to them, so that they can speak to the congregation. That is the main thing. Anything else he may do, beyond that, is okay. However, the greatest responsibility and the number one responsibility is for a pastor to live so that when Jesus Christ speaks to him, and He does; He speaks to faithful pastors. He speaks and the message that He speaks are to be related unto the congregation. It doesn't do any good for God to speak to me about a message that needs to be here, if I just put it in my pocket and don't ever preach it or talk about it. God knows what we need.

God knew what the church here at Philadelphia needed. God knows what every church needs tonight. Not every church has a pastor that is God sent. Not every church has a pastor that is alive. Not every church is alive. Not every church is faithful. Amen!

I'm not judging anybody. I'm not critical of anybody. I can't tell you which ones are which. That isn't my job. I do know that not everyone is faithful to God. If that were the case then we wouldn't be in the mess we are in today. Our world wouldn't be in the mess that we are in today. Amen!

He speaks unto the messenger, unto the pastor at the church of Philadelphia.

Revelation 3:7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

So, he is writing unto the pastor...the pastor is to relate this message to the church. The first thing that Jesus says here, "the one that is writing unto you here is holy." Jesus Christ himself is speaking these words unto this church. He says here, "I am holy." When you look at that do you know what you will find out? You will find out that Jesus Christ is holy.

Do you know what the word *holy* means? It means that He is set apart and different from all other gods. There is nobody like Jesus Christ. There may be many gods in this world and we know there is, but there is nobody like Jesus Christ. When He says that he wants these folks to understand that He is holy. He is the holy One. He totally and completely set apart from the world and all other gods; this is the One that is speaking to this church.

The second thing He says here, not only is He holy, but He says...

Revelation 3:7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

"He is truth." Which means He is the opposite of anything that is false. Not only that but He is genuine. He is absolutely opposed or opposite to all those that are counterfeit. He is doing this to let this church understand who it is that is speaking unto them.

Listen. He is still yet speaking today. He hasn't lost any of His holiness today. I know our church world as a whole, we have got real lax, lazy, and we have become like the world. We have become more like the world. However, listen. The standard that God has placed for you and I has not changed one bit. He is still yet holy and my friend He is still yet true. Amen!

Not only that but He says here...

Revelation 3:7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that

openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

If you want to read something that will go along with that. Go to Isaiah 22 and you will find out here that Hezekiah had a servant. This servant's name was Eliakim. He placed; he gave him the responsibility that if you went to the king, if you got to speak to the king, if you got to see the king then you had to come through Eliakim. He had the key. He was the one that had the authority to be able to unlock the door and to be able to let people come into where the king was at.

Get this. Jesus Christ is the One who unlocks the door and makes you and me to be able to approach the God of heaven. There is no one else that can give mankind eternal life except Jesus Christ. He is the one that has unlocked salvation. He is the one that has unlocked eternal life. If you are going to go to heaven, you are going to go through and by Him. If you don't go that way, then you are not going to go. He has the authority to unlock heaven, to unlock eternal life, to unlock all the blessings of heaven; Jesus Christ has that authority. Nobody else. You can't...Baptists can't save you. Preachers can't save you. The pope can't save you. Amen! He doesn't have the authority. Jesus Christ has the key of David. He has the authority to unlock the door and let you in. Isn't that great?

Not everybody—everybody could come in and He wants everybody to come in but not everybody wants to come in. amen!

Not only does He have that, but here is what I want to talk about.

Revelation 3:7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

I know this has to do with evangelism and missionary work—we are going to talk about that just in a moment. The thing is in talking to your family, do you know what you might run into? I couldn't be saved because I did this. I have been too bad. I committed this kind of an atrocity back when I was younger.

I have talked to people that have been in war before. They had a big issue with all that went on in war and what they had to do. They had a hard time understanding that was what they had to do, and they were ordered to do. That was part of that time. Here is the thing. Jesus Christ is the One that opens the door and no man can shut it.

Get this. Do you know what God is doing? Do you know what He did for this church? He opened up doors for them to work. When the Lord opens up a door of ministry, nobody can shut it. When the Lord opens a door of ministry, it doesn't matter, if all the demons, and all the devils that are in hell tonight camp out on your bedpost they cannot stop, they cannot shut the door of ministry when Jesus Christ has opened it. Don't ever forget that. He is the One that opens doors. He is the One that opens doors for us to minister. He is the One...

This church here at Philadelphia, do you know what they had done? He had opened up doors for them to minister. They were surrounded by three or four different cities. Sardis was one of them. Fiji was one of them. I forget the other one. However, they were surrounded here by three or four different cities. They sat right in the middle of that. Do you know what God did? God opened up a door for them to minister and to evangelize all these different cities.

There is no doubt in my mind that the enemy was always trying to close doors. Listen. If you are going to do anything for God and you are doing something for God the enemy is always going to try to close the door. He is going to try to scare you. He is going to try to buffalo you. He is going to try to say you can't do it. You are not smart enough. They don't want to hear you. You shouldn't do that. You will hear all that stuff.

However, if God opens it you need to go through it wide open. Listening to His voice every day. Getting up every day knowing that He has opened the door and you need to go at it wide open. As He leads, as you listen to His voice; we don't need to get ahead of Him. We don't need to try to tell Him what to do. We just need to listen to Him. We do need to be going forth.

Revelation 3:7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

Get this. "He also shuts and no man can open." Amen! I think in our own lives, I think if we would understand the concept of ministry, then we wouldn't see so many people discouraged. If we understood that God opens doors for us to minister through; we belong to Him. We don't belong to ourselves. This thing has nothing really to do with you and me. It belongs to God. The earth belongs to God. He is the one who saved us. He bought us with His blood. When I raised my hand and said yes Lord, I am going to follow you. I am going to listen to you. Whatever you have for me to do that is what I am going to do. I volunteered. When I did that, when you did that then do you know what you did? You said Lord, you are the boss, you are master; we are the servants. You tell me where to go. You tell me what field I need to be in today and that is where I will go.

When we take that attitude then we will never get in the wrong field. Amen! There is a story about Boaz and Ruth. It is a pretty good story. Don't you think? It is a pretty good story. When we will listen to Him, as He opens doors for us, we will never get in the wrong field. Also, when that door of opportunity closes, then we can't pry it open. When the opportunity shuts and it does from time to time and people move on. The ministry got different jobs and different places and different places and things like that; and that happens. However, when God opens do you know what we should do? We should walk through those doors by faith. Amen! However, there are times when doors of ministry close. Do you know what you are not going to do? You are not going to pry it open. It is not going to work. When the blessing of God...if the blessing of God is not

there, I don't want to be there. Do you? If God is not leading the way then I don't want to be there. The Bible says this.

Revelation 3:8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

Do you know what He says here at this church? I know exactly what you are doing. I have opened doors for you and you guys have walked through them. I know I have closed doors and you guys have not tried to pry them open.

Revelation 3:8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

He says, "I know all that you are doing." Isn't it great when you lay your head on your pillow tonight before you go to bed, just think for a moment that God knows, not only what you are going to do tomorrow—if you do anything tomorrow, you may not be here—God knows what you did today. God knows why you did what you did today. Motives matters. I promise you the reason you do what you do, a lot of times means more than what you do, do. amen! Because motives do matter.

Revelation 3:8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

I have set before you guys an open door of evangelism, an open door for the missionaries to go. I have set before you open doors. There are people everywhere. There are all kinds of opportunities here. There are all kinds of things here. He says you guys have walked through them. You guys have walked through those doors that I have opened for you.

Revelation 3:8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

As I said earlier, no doubt, probably there are all kinds of things that had happened. There were all kinds of things that had taken place. People had tried to make them stop. You don't need to do this and all of that. Do you know what they did? They continued to go on.

Revelation 3:8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

He says, "...for thou hast little strength..." probably this church didn't have much money. Probably it was a small congregation. Probably it didn't have a lot of things that the people up the road in Laodicea had. They probably didn't have the big buildings that Laodicea had. They probably didn't have all the money that Laodicea had and all the riches that were in Laodicea. However, these guys had something that Laodicea

didn't have. Do you know what that was? That was love. L-O-V-E. Not only love for each other but also love for people. They had a love for God. They had a love for God, to do what God asked them to do. When God opened the door, do you know what they knew? They knew that it was God that opened the door. Do you know what else they knew? They knew that they needed to walk through that door. They knew that when they walked through that door that God would bless them. God continued to open up doors and they continued to walk through doors. The more they walked through, the more doors that were opened. They continued on and continued on. God continued to bless.

He says here, I know there is not a lot of you. I know you don't have a lot of money. I know there is not a lot of strength here. I know that. He also says this.

Revelation 3:8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

He says, "...thou hast kept my word..." You guys have done. I have spoken to the pastor and the pastor has spoken and you guys have been obedient to what I have asked you to do. You have kept my word. That is a pretty good thought. Don't you think?

We need to ask ourselves; how much of God's Word are we actually keeping? We like to keep the parts that don't require a whole lot out of us. We like to keep the parts that we like to do. However, what are some of the things that we don't like to do, or maybe some of the places that He wants us to go that we don't want to go. Maybe to talk to some of the people that we don't like to talk to, maybe on the other side of the tracks. Amen! Maybe down by the river bank. We want everything fine. We want to be comfortable and do all of that. We will do those things but it is quite amazing sometimes what we will pick and choose to do and not to.

Let me tell you something. The will of God for your life is not optional. You don't get to pick and choose what you are going to do and not do. If you are going to be faithful to God then you are going to be faithful to God. You are going to walk through all of the doors that God opens for you. Many times, in life, the doors that God opens, are not good doors. What I mean by that is that they are not comfortable doors. Amen! You all know that. Me getting here was not comfortable. It took 12 to 15 years for that to happen. It wasn't comfortable. I don't know that it needs to be comfortable. Do you know what it does? When things are not comfortable, then we will spend more time with Him in praying and seeking His face. Do you know what I do when I get comfortable? I take a nap. Amen! I prop my feet up, if I can and I will prop my head upon something and I take a nap. You go to sleep. We do that in our Christian life sometimes. We get comfortable. Everything is fine. Everything is going well. Kids are doing good. Job is fine. Have a little money put back. We just put it on cruise control until we hit something...then we go back to doing what we should have been doing all along.

He says here, you have kept my word. He says here, "...you haven't denied my name..." You have guys have been obedient to me. Not only that but also, you have not denied my name. You have not denied my name.

Listen. These folks had not forsaken the Lord. He had spoken. They had been obedient. The doors He had opened for them, they had gone through those doors. They had not denied His name. Even all around them with all the vice and drunkenness that was around them everywhere; do you know what they did not do? They did not compromise. They did not say hey, we don't know who Jesus Christ is. They stood for the truth. They stood for His Word. They stood for what is right. God continued to open up doors for them.

The doors of evangelism—do you know what God will do and God is still yet doing? He is still opening today. He is opening today doors for people...more than anytime in all the church history. Also, along with that I think probably at a time, like no other time in church history, people are not listening. People are turning a deaf ear. We are too busy. We have this going on. We have to get this taken care. The kids are involved in this. We have to run here or there. We get so busy doing stuff that doesn't matter until we run into something. We miss opportunities.

The opportunities that God opens to us today, may not be opened tomorrow. They may be gone tomorrow. The people that God wants you to see and visit and talk to today, maybe dead tomorrow. You may be dead tomorrow. We may not have the opportunity to walk through that door that God is opening for us today.

Listen. The fields are white to harvest. Jesus made the statement. But the laborers are few. The doors are being opened to work, for evangelism, for missionary work, for visitation, for talking, for visiting, and seeing, and trying to persuade people; everywhere. On every corner you go to. 11,000 to 13,000 people lives within two miles of here. More than that probably. In the city of Ironton, is what I was thinking about. Eleven thousand to thirteen thousand people—I don't know what it is now. It used to be that. Just in a few miles of here; doors of opportunity, doors of evangelism, doors for missionary work are being opened and we drive past them every day. That is not for me. That is the preacher's job. It is the preacher's job to visit. You hear that all the time. It is not but that is what you hear. Doors are opening.

Here is the thing I want you to get...God wants to bless you and will bless you when you walk through those doors He opens. You can't pry them open. You can't shove them open. You can't go out here and start some religious movement that God is not in and expect God to bless it and we do that sometimes. We want to get something all together and put it all in a pot and ask God to bless it. It doesn't work that way. If God is in the pot then He will bless it and if He is not then we need to stay away from it.

He has a job for you. He has work for you. He has a place for you to work whether you are eight or eighty. Amen! God is opening up doors for His people that are faithful who are keeping His Word and listening to His voice. God has opportunities for you—for

evangelism. Amen! Everywhere. It is in your neighborhood. It is where you live at. T is the people that you see. It is the people that you run into that I will never see. Amen. I don't live in your neighborhood and you don't live in my neighborhood. I don't work around the people that you work around. There are doors of evangelism, doors of opportunity. Doors that we can change people's lives and invite people to come to Jesus Christ. This church did. God blessed them.

When it is all said and done—do you know what He said He would do for the faithful? For those that were alive—this church was alive. This church was faithful. They were alive spiritually. Not everybody that comes to church is alive spiritually. This church was faithful. Not everybody that comes to church is faithful. This church was alive and they were faithful. Because of that, He promised these folks something and He promised that to you and me today. If we will be faithful, if we are faithful and alive; He makes this statement. He would keep the faithful and those that are alive from the day of great temptation, the great tribulation that is going to come upon all the world, to try all them that live upon the earth—He said, He would keep us, the faithful from that. Amen! I read that to you. Remember that!

Revelation 3:10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

That is a promise that He is going to evacuate us before the great day of tribulation begins. It is for those that are faithful and for those that are alive. It is not just because you give to the church or you sign a card, but for the faithful and those that are alive.

If you are not saved tonight, it would be a great time for you to come and make things right with God. He loves you. Jesus died for you.

Come and pray—