

**"The Faithful Church"
(Revelation 3:7-13)**

Christ's letter to the church at Sardis provides another opportunity for us to evaluate ourselves in light of . . .

I. Christ's Character (7)

- He is **Holy and True**
"These things saith he that is holy, he that is true"
- He is **Sovereign**
"he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth"

II. Christ's Commendation (8-10)

- For Their **Dependence**
"...for thou hast a little strength"
- For Their **Obedience**
"and hast kept my word"
- For Their **Courage**
"and hast not denied my name"
- For Their **Endurance**
"thou hast kept the word of my patience"

III. Christ's Counsel (11)

- Look **Up**
"Behold I come quickly..."
- Don't **Let Up**
"hold that fast which thou hast, that no man taken thy crown"

IV. Christ's Coming (12-13)

- Permanent **Stability** in Christ
"Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God"
- Permanent **Identity** in Christ
"and I will write upon him the name of my God...name...name"

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Small Group Discussion Guide

Icebreaker The ancient city of Philadelphia experienced severe earthquakes. Share about a time you went through a severe storm or anything else close to a natural disaster.

1. Share something from Sunday's sermon that spoke to you personally – a challenge? an encouragement? a good reminder?
2. What are some "doors of opportunity" that Christ opens for us? What door has He opened for you? What is our responsibility at these times?
3. How is Christ's statement to this church *"thou hast a little strength"* actually a compliment to them? How should this affect the way we live and serve Him? (Consider 2 Cor 12:9)
4. Read and discuss Rev 5:11. What are some keys to make sure we do not coast, and that we "finish well" for the Lord?

Digging Deeper

1. Look up the following verses and decide which section of the sermon outline on front they best support and why. (Hint: they are in order ☺)
Rev 4:8; Ps 16:10; Mk 1:24; Acts 3:14; 1 Pet 1:15
1 Jn 5:20; Jn 1:9; 6:32; 14:6; 15:1
Is 22:22; Mat 16:19; Rev 1:18
Acts 14:27; 1 Cor 16:8-9; 2 Cor 2:12-13; Col 4:3
Jn 15:5b; 2 Cor 12:9; Phil 4:13
Rev 3:9; also see Jn 8:44; Rom 9:6-8; Rev 2:9; Is.45:14; Phil 2:10-11
Rev 1:1; 22:12, 20; Rom 13:11; 1 Cor 7:29; 1 Pet 4:7; Jas 5:8
1 Cor 15:58; 2 Jn 8
2. Write Rev 3:8 on a card. Review it during the week for prayer & personal evaluation. What open door does Jesus want you to walk through for Him?
3. Note that the world-wide hour of temptation (trial) in Rev 3:10 is to try **"them that dwell upon the earth"** (i.e. the unsaved). See the repetition of this phrase in Rev 6:10; 8:13; 11:10; 13:8, 14 and 17:8. Praise God that we are not destined for this day of wrath! (1 Thes.1:10, 5:9)

For Next Week

Read Revelation 3:18-22, Christ's letter to the church that "makes God sick!" How is this letter similar to (or different than) previous letters?