

Bridgeway Community Church
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Series: Threshold
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THRESHOLD

The Shut Door

"...the message that Jesus has given to those churches [the 7 churches addressed in Revelation 1-3] in some way represent his message to us today in the church of Jesus Christ here in the 21st century...Lord what are you saying to us today?"

Today, let's see what Jesus has to say to the 6th Church known as the Church of Philadelphia.

Revelation 3:7 NIV84

[Jesus speaking] "To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.

DECLARATIONS ABOUT HIMSELF

What Jesus declares about himself:

1. I have all authority in my hands
2. I have all power in my hands

v. 7: "...who holds the key of David."

DECLARATION OF AUTHORITY

Keys represent authority & access

"This particular passage in Revelation is actually a prophecy fulfilled from Isaiah 22:22."

Isaiah 22:22 NIV84

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.

"In other words, Jesus is the Messiah who is known as not only as the son of God but he's also known as the son of David meaning that he's coming through the lineage of the house of David just as it was prophesied that the Messiah would come from the house of David."

Question: What's Jesus saying about himself in Revelation 3:7?

"I hold the key of David. In other words, I have the authority, I have the anointing, I have access into the very presence of my father God, so when we come into Christ, we have that same authority and we have that same access to come into the presence of God..."

DECLARATION OF POWER

Revelation 3:7 NIV84

[Jesus speaking] "To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open."

"Jesus is saying, 'I have the power. If I open something, it's going to stay open. If I close something, it's going to stay closed. That nobody can overtake what I do. That I am God all by myself. I'm all powerful.'"

Authority	=	"I have the right."
Power	=	"I have the might."

God has BOTH. - [Jesus speaking] What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. v.7

Question: Everyone might have some power, but what do you have power over?

Revelation 1:18 NIV84

[Jesus speaking] I am the Living one; I was dead, behold I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and hades.

"The beautiful thing about that is if he gives you that authority and he gives you that power, then that means that death and hades doesn't have power over you as well."

Every time Satan throws death & hades at the believer, Jesus steps up in the lane, like the big man in the middle of a basketball game, and slaps it down and says, "I got your number! Get that mess out of here!"

"Oh death, where is thy victory?"

"Oh grave, where is thy sting"?

1 Corinthians 15:54-57 NIV84

When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

⁵⁵ "Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?"

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

You can't throw death & the grave at the believer and succeed, because Jesus beat death & the grave and if you're in Christ, you will too! Satan threw it at your mother, your sister, your friend, your family member, but Jesus said, "I hold the key to death and hades, get that mess outta here!"

"The only reason why we're able to beat death and to be alive for eternity is because of the cross of Jesus Christ."

Song: "At The Cross" by Bill Gaither

At the cross, at the cross
Where I first saw the light
And the burden of my heart
Rolled away, rolled away
It was there by faith
I received my sight
And now I am happy all the day

"Because he [Christ] died on the cross, we don't have to die an eternal death. Our physical bodies are a shell that will be shed because it's fallen. But we can be eternally alive and even have a glorified body into the future."

"If you have the right and if you have the might, you can walk up in the light."

Song: Jesus Paid It All by Elvina Hall & John Grape

Jesus paid it all
And all to him I owe
My sin had left this crimson stain
He washed it white as snow

Example of Zechariah

Luke 1:18-20 NIV84

Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years." ¹⁹ The angel answered, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. ²⁰ And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their proper time."

God can shut someone's mouth who speaks against his will, or against him, or against you, if he wants to!

We witnessed in the pandemic that God allowed a virus to completely shut down our entire nation with a virus; in fact, our entire world!

- Somebody needs God to just shut something down right now!
- Somebody needs God to shut the mouth of the enemy.
- Somebody needs a gossip to be silenced.
- Somebody needs a slander to be muted.
- God can open and close doors...pathways, portals and pie-holes...mouths!
- Someone is praying right now, "Shut it down, Lord"!
- Shut down the court case.
- Shut down the accusations.
- Shut down the enemy's schemes.
- Shut down the cancer cells.
- Shut down the spread of the virus.

- Shut down the sickness.
- Shut down the toxicity in my relationships.
- Shut down the manipulation in my marriage.
- Shut down my attackers.
- Shut down my distractors

He's a God that can shut doors that no one can open

Question: Does anyone need God to shut something/someone down?

"If you're in Christ, when Christ walks through a threshold, he can shut the door behind himself. Then anybody who tries to get to you has to go through him because he's the door.

John 10:7-9 NIV84

Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture."

John 10:7 ESV

So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep."

God does this! He can shut the door behind you!!

- "Lord, shut the door on Guilt."
- Shut the door on Shame
- Shut the door on bitterness
- Shut the door on an unforgiving heart
- Shut the door on Leroy from my past
- Shut the door on Lola from 20 years ago
- Shut the FB door
- Shut the IG instant message door
- Block, Delete, Encrypt, Confuse...

There's only two things I want to follow me: goodness & mercy!!

Psalm 23:6 NIV84

Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever!

Somebody else is praying, "God, OPEN the door!"

- Open the door of deliverance
- Open the door of prosperity
- Open the door of abundance
- Open the door of victory
- Open the door of entrepreneurship, opportunities, contracts
- Open the door of right relationships
- Open the floodgates of heaven & pour out a blessing I do not have room enough to receive
- Open the overflow and make me a blessing to others!

You serve a door opening God!

DECLARATIONS ABOUT THEM

1. I know your deeds

Jesus said this to all 7 churches, "*I know your deeds*" - Revelation 2:2, 9, 13, 19, 3:1, 8, 15

Jesus is telling the church of Philadelphia, I know all the good works you have done and you have been working hard for me

"God wants someone to know today that he sees their hard work. He sees their deeds. Because when you're working for the Lord, your labor is not in vain. For those of you who are serving God, God wants you to know he knows your deeds. He knows your works. He knows how hard you've been putting time in for the glory of God. God sees all that you are doing for the kingdom."

Even though you are:

- writing contracts
- emptying trash cans
- folding clothes for kids
- working late hours
- driving people from place to place
- working on presentations late into the night
- Raising your kids, day in and day out
- praying without ceasing

Jesus knows your deeds! He knows what efforts you are putting into serving him and others!

- When you feed the hungry, he sees it.
- When you clothe those who can't afford a stylish wardrobe, He sees it.
- When you make sacrificial donations to advance the ministry of the church, He sees it.
- When you visit the sick and shut in, He sees it.

"Church, I see and know your deeds" says the Lord!

2. I know you are tired!

Revelation 3:8 NIV84

[Jesus speaking] I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

John 9:4 NIV84

[Jesus speaking] As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.

PROMISES TO THEM

1. You will not be defeated by the enemy, v. 9

Revelation 3:9 NIV84

[Jesus speaking] I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you.

"The thing that Satan hates is that God loves us and it is shown."

"Synagogue of Satan" - referring to a group persecuting the church who were saying they are Jews but were not

Some Church Folk are imposters, predators, false prophets, charlatans

Their only motive for attending church is to make business deals instead of being about the Father's business!

But don't worry about them! I promise, you will not be defeated.

2. You will not suffer during the time of tribulation, v. 10

Revelation 3:10 NIV84

[Jesus speaking] Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.

“Endure patiently” - (Greek: hupomone) - courageous endurance & resistance against attack and standing under suffering

“Hour of trial” - the Great Tribulation

Matthew 24:21-22 NIV84

[Jesus speaking] For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again. ²² If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.

Luke 21:36 NIV84

[Jesus speaking] Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.

Jesus says, I know that your tired but hang on.

3. You will have a permanent place in heaven v.11-12

Revelation 3:11-12 NIV84

[Jesus speaking] I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. ¹² Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name.

Believers sometimes live in a tension about Jesus coming back again. We want him to come back, but there is something we want to happen first, so we feel this internal tug-of-war.

When you're in a relationship with Jesus Christ, it may not always be easy but God sees your deeds and He will reward your faithfulness.

He tells the believers in Philadelphia that He will write his name on them and they will have a place with him in heaven.

Revelation 21:1-4,7 NIV84

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men and he will live with them. They will be his people and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away...⁷ He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son."

But I have a solemn warning too - The door to eternity is closing! It will not remain open forever.

Revelation 20:13-15 NIV84

The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. ¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Whether literal or figurative, we know this lake of fire is death in eternity separated from God forever!

"Second death" - born once; you will die twice. Born twice, you will only die once.

"If you're born once, you'll die twice; If you're born physically, you'll die physically and eternally. But if you're born twice - physically, we're all born once - now you're born twice when you accept Jesus into your heart, into your life to forgive you of your sin, you are born again and if you're born twice, you'll only die once and that's a physical death.

John 3:16 NIV84

[Jesus speaking] For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Even though it might sound discouraging to know that one day the door to eternity with God will someday shut, but it is not shut yet. The door is still open for you!

John 10:7-9 NIV84

Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture."

John 10:7 ESV

So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep."

1 John 5:12-13 NIV84

He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. ¹³ I write these things to you who **believe** in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

John 10:10 NIV84

[Jesus speaking] The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Pray this prayer if you want to receive Christ:

"Dear Jesus, please save me. I want to walk through the open door of love and salvation that you are offering me today. Invite you into my life by faith and make a decision to follow you, in Jesus' name, amen!"