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Our Purpose

why we exist

The purpose of the church is to bring glory to God.

Our Mission

what we do

Love God • Love People • Make Disciples

Our Core Values

how we do it

- Worship** - lifting up the name of the Lord Jesus Christ
- Connect** - living in community, loving and supporting one another
- Grow** - equipping believers to live in obedience to God's Word
- Serve** - helping people discover and use their God-given talents
- Reach** - transforming lives and communities with the good news of Jesus Christ

Contact Information

Church Address: 4040 Tully Road
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September 14/15

SEVEN LETTERS REVELATION 2-3



Sermon Notes

The Letter to the Growing Church, Part 2

Revelation 3:7-13

Pastor Rick Countryman

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. 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. 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. 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. I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. 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. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. Revelation 3:7-13 (NIV)

Signs of a growing church (or individual)

1. A growing church walks through the doors God opens to **SERVE**

Him and **REACH** the lost.

I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. Verse 8

I will be staying here at Ephesus until the Festival of Pentecost. There is a wide-open door for a great work here, although many oppose me. 1 Corinthians 16:8-9 (NLT)

2. A growing church relies on **GOD'S STRENGTH** for everything.

I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength... Verse 8

I can do everything through him who gives me strength. Philippians 4:13 (NIV)

3. A growing church obeys the **WORD OF GOD**.

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... Verse 8

So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech. Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full

experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness. 1 Peter 2:1-3 (NLT)

Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Joshua 1:8 (NIV)

4. A growing church loves the **NAME OF JESUS**.

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. Verse 8

Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But everyone who denies me here on earth, I will also deny before my Father in heaven. Matthew 10:32-33 (NLT)

You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God... Exodus 20:7 (NIV)

A good name is more desirable than great riches... Proverbs 22:1 (NIV)

Say to the people of Israel: Those who curse their God will be punished for their sin. Anyone who blasphemes the Name of the LORD must be stoned to death by the whole community of Israel. Any native-born Israelite or foreigner among you who blasphemes the Name of the LORD must be put to death. Leviticus 24:15-16 (NLT)

• You honor the name of God when you **REVERE** the name of God.

There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved. Acts 4:12 (NLT)

Praise the LORD's glorious name... Psalm 29:2 (GN)

• You honor the name of God when you **REPRESENT** the name of God clearly.

"The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness." 2 Timothy 2:19 (NIV)

• You honor the name of God when you **TRUST** in the name of God.

In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. Psalm 33:21 (NIV)



Memory Verse

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17

Monday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read Matthew 25:14-30. When the master returned, how did he respond to two of his servants?

How were these servants faithful?

How might The Master respond to the way you've chosen to invest your life?

Tuesday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read Revelation 3:8 and John 14:23-24.

What two things did the church in Philadelphia do for Christ?

According to John 14:23-24, how can we show our love for Christ?

Read Psalm 119:11 and Psalm 119:101-112. How does the Psalmist describe God's words?

What steps can you take to ensure you don't sin against God?

Wednesday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read Genesis 16:13, Proverbs 18:10, Isaiah 9:6, Jeremiah 23:6, John 1:29, John 10:11, Revelation 1:8 and Revelation 19:16.

Which Scripture spoke to you? Why?

How do the names of God reveal His character?

Read Psalm 9:10. How does knowing God's name help you to trust Him?

Thursday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read Acts 5:40-42 and 1 Peter 4:16.

What happened to the apostles because they were speaking out in the name of Jesus?

How did they respond to the punishment?

What should our response be to suffering?

Write about a time you represented God's name favorably during a time of trial or persecution.

Friday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read Revelation 3:11-12, Jeremiah 1:19, John 16:33, 1 John 4:4 and 1 John 5:4-5. In Revelation 3:12, who will be made a pillar in the temple of God?

Who has overcome the world?

How is it possible that we can overcome the world?

What do you think it means to overcome?

Personal Reflection & Application

Has learning about God's power changed how you want to invest your life? If so, what are some areas needing change?