



FROM ANCIENT TO MODERN

SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION TODAY

Philadelphia: The Church Jesus Prefers

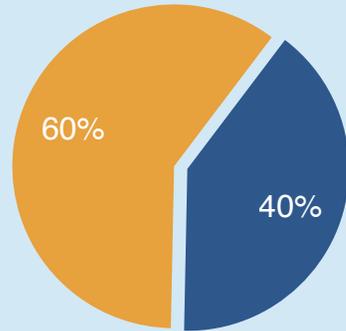
“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, ‘These things says He who is holy, He who is true, ‘He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens’: ‘I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it;[d] for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name. ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’”

Revelation 3:7-12 (NKJV)

What kind of church do you prefer?

- One with good music?
- One with good preaching?
- One with a good Bible Study?
- One with good refreshments and potlucks?

Approximately 60% of youth and young adults between the ages of 18-29 will leave their Christian backgrounds and drop church.



But what kind of church does Jesus prefer?

The characteristics of that church are:

- Growing _____
- Abiding _____
- Fervent _____

PHILADELPHIA

- Population: _____
- The city was named for _____.
- The name means: _____.
- The city was destroyed by an earthquake in _____.
- Pliny the Elder called the earthquake “the _____”
- _____
- The city was renamed to _____ for a time.

To the church at Philadelphia, Jesus says He is:

_____ and _____

which literally means “set apart and genuine.”

COMMENDATION

NOTE: When the Bible says the church had “little strength” in NKJV, the word for strength in the Greek is *dynamis*. It literally means “power” and is the root of the word that we get our English word, “dynamite.”

CONDEMNATION

NOTE: Just like Smyrna, the Philadelphian church receives no condemnation. That’s powerful, because He knows everything, and still has no condemnation.

COUNSEL:

CHALLENGE:

COMPENSATION

NOTE: In Jewish tradition, it was customary to erect a pillar as a monument to help remember a person beyond his/her death. These pillars became part of the ancient synagogues. Being identified as a pillar means that the person is forever an essential part of God’s Temple.