



A MESSAGE TO THE  
SEVEN CHURCHES  
OF REVELATION

ALL THAT IS GOLD DOES NOT GLITTER  
REVELATION 3:7-13

"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 on the whole world to test the inhabitants of  
the earth.

I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. The one who is victorious

I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them 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 them my new name. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Revelation 3:6-13

[It is] generally accepted that being a Christian had nothing essentially to do with *actually* following or being like Jesus. It was readily admitted that most "Christians" did not really follow him and were not really like him. ...The only absolute requirement for being a Christian was that one believe the proper things *about* Jesus.

Dallas Willard, *The Spirit of Disciplines*

In the midst of the seven churches [John] saw one  
“like the Son of Man” who was Jesus, the Christ.

Christ is not seen apart from the gathered,  
listening, praying, believing, worshiping people to  
whom he is Lord and Savior. It is not possible to  
have Christ apart from the church. We try. We  
would very much like to have Christ apart from the  
contradictions and distractions of the other  
persons who believe in him, or say that they do.

...

We want a Christ who is pure goodness, beauty, and truth. We prefer to worship him under the caress of a stunning sunset, or with inspiring tonalities of a soaring symphony or by means of a penetrating poetry. We would like to put as much distance as possible between our worship of Christ and the indifferent hymn singing and fussy moralism which somehow always gets into the church...

But to all this aspiring aestheticism the gospel says  
No: "Write to the seven churches." We would  
prefer to go directly from the awesome vision of  
Christ (Rev. 1), to the glorious ecstasies of heaven  
(Rev. 4, 5), and then on to the grand, victorious  
battles against dragon wickedness (Rev. 12-14). But  
we can't do it. The church has to be negotiated  
first. The only way from Christ to heaven and the  
battles against sin is through the church.

Eugene Peterson, *Reversed Thunder*

“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.”

Rev. 3:7

# A S I A

(Modern Eastern Turkey)



"I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut." (v.8)

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Language of Gospel Opportunity

1 Cor 16:9 "...a wide door for effective work has opened to me..."

2 Cor 2:1 "...a door was opened for me in the Lord..."

Col 4:3 "...that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ..."

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**Open door of opportunity**

**Little strength**

**Kept Jesus' word**

**Have not denied Jesus' name**

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**The danger is that they would settle for  
mediocrity.**

For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

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We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken."  
Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe  
and therefore speak, because we know that the one  
who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also  
raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself.  
All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is  
reaching more and more people may cause  
thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:5-18

San Francisco is "The most left part of the left coast,  
the un-American place where America invents  
itself."

Rebecca Solnit, *Infinite City*

“We should not underestimate the significance of the small group of people who have a vision of a just and gentle world. In Japan a very small minority of Protestant Christians introduced ethics into politics and had an impact beyond all proportion to their numbers. ...The quality of a culture may be changed when two percent of its people have a new vision.”

Robert Bellah, *Psychology Today*