

SEVEN

CHURCHES IN REVELATION

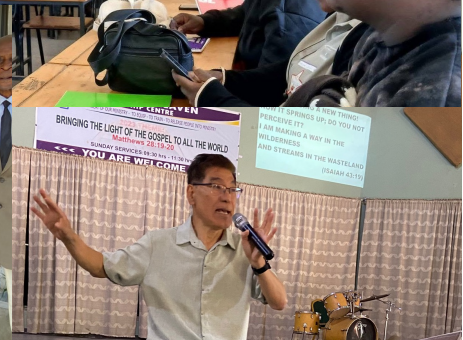


- Church in Philadelphia
- June 28, 2026
- Shalom Ministries International

<https://www.shalomgrove.net/>

SMI Zambia Mission (6/3-25)

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vRaWK2gaCw-SA9dszCl8r4pmRAoxDtGYrSmY4l9RMVQ/edit?tab=t.0>



6th Church: To the Church in Philadelphia

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...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...Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches (Revelation 3:7-13).

For Whom the Church Exists?

- I have placed before **you** an open door that no one can shut (Rev. 3:8)
 - Ekkesia (The called-out assembly): Ek (out of) + kaleo (to call).
- The church belongs to God
 - Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of **the church of God**, which he bought with his own blood (Acts 20:28).
 - **My house** is a house of prayer for all nations (Isaiah 56:7).
- The church exists for the world
 - The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned (Isaiah 9:2).
 - Open your eyes and look at the field (John 4:36).
 - Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations...(Matthew 28:19).

Who is Jesus?

- Holy, true, holding the key of David
 - (Jesus) 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).
- The Holy One
 - This affirms His pure, divine nature and separates Him from all earthly or unholy forces.
- The True One
 - This establishes Him as the source of absolute truth and ultimate reality, contrasting with false teachings.
- The holder of the key of David
 - I will place on his (Eliakim) shoulder the key to the house of David; what he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open (Isaiah 22:22).
 - Jesus is the promised King in the lineage of David. The key symbolizes His complete authority to grant or deny access to the kingdom of heaven.
 - Jesus gave that key to His church in Philadelphia: the key to evangelism and preaching the Word.

Jesus' Commendations & Acknowledgments

- The church at Philadelphia
 - I know your deeds... 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... I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you (Rev. 3:7-9).
- Little strength (a small church, made up of slaves & poor people)
 - Though they might have been small in the sight of the men, they are great in the sight of God.
 - He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak (Isaiah 40:29).
- You have kept my word and not denied my name
 - The church faced opposition from false teachers (the synagogue of Satan), who thought they were saved because the precepts of the Law.
 - A person is not a Jew who is one only outwardly... No, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code (Romans 2:28-29).
- A Promise of divine vindication
 - The Jews would bow down before the feet of the Saints in Christ.
 - The children of your oppressors will come bowing before you; all who despise you will bow down at your feet and will call you the City of the LORD, Zion of the Holy One of Israel (Isaiah 60:14).

Divine Protection and Eternal Rewards

- The church will be caught up before the judgment (Tribulation).
 - 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 (Rev 3:10).
 - God is entirely faithful to protect the spiritual destiny of those who patiently endure for Him.
- Jesus urges them to stand firm, promising eternal rewards
 - 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 (Rev 3:12).
 - The Name of my God: The believer belongs entirely to God and bears His character.
 - The name of the city of my God: The believer has a permanent, secure home in the heavenly kingdom that will endure forever.

Two Cycles of the Church Lifestyles

The Cycle of Spiritual Decay (The Path to Death)

- Internal drift
 - Loss of First Love: Ephesus (Rev. 2:4)
- Compromise
 - The boundary thins: Pergamum (Rev. 2:14)
- Assimilation
 - The world is welcomed in: Thyatira (Rev. 2:20)
- Spiritual death
 - The hollow shell: Sardis & Laodicea (Rev. 3:1 & 17)

The Cycle of Spiritual Resilience (The Path to Life)

- Radical obedience
 - Guarding the center: Philadelphia (Rev. 3:8)
- Patient endurance
 - Productive struggle: Smyrna & Philadelphia (Rev. 2:10; 3:10)
- Outsized impact
 - Small but sovereignly positioned: Philadelphia (Rev. 3:8)
- Saved and set
 - Ultimate vindication: Smyrna & Philadelphia (Rev. 2:10 & 3:12)

The Responsibilities of the Church

- To be a faithful witness
 - You have kept my word and have not denied my name (v. 8).
 - Christ does not ask us to be impressive; He asks us to be faithful.
 - Faithfulness begins with obedience to Scripture.
 - The church must remain faithful even amid opposition, cultural pressure, and suffering.
- Persevere; Hold fast
 - Since you have kept my command to endure patiently (v. 10). I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have (v. 11).
 - The greatest danger to faithful churches is not always persecution from outside but discouragement, compromise, or spiritual drift from within.
- The church is the only thing on earth that will last forever.
 - I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem (Revelation 3:12).
 - We are now members of God's own family. Now we live in the hope of eternal life (1 Peter 1:3b, TLB).

The Responsibilities of the Pastor

- Guarding the Word and the Name (Spiritual Integrity)
 - You have kept my word and have not denied my name (Rev. 3:8).
 - A pastor's role isn't necessarily to build a massive, powerful organization, but to guide the congregation in steadfast obedience, biblical truth, and bold witness.
- Recognizing and stepping through open doors
 - I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut (Rev. 3: 8).
 - The "open door" is something Jesus opens, not something the pastor or church creates on their own strength. The pastor's job is to pray for discernment to see where God is already at work.
- Have global vision for God to accomplish his mission in the world.
 - The church must have global vision if it wants God's blessing.
 - It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation (Romans 15:20)
 - But Jesus told him, "Anyone who lets himself be **distracted from the work I plan** for him is not fit for the Kingdom of God." (Luke 9:62, TLB).