

## Suffering and Victory in Philadelphia

Revelation 3:7-13

*To the Church in Philadelphia! This is the sixth of the seven letters in our series entitled, "Dear Church." These letters can be found in Revelation 2-3, where Christ addresses seven churches that existed in western Asia Minor, modern day Turkey.*

### [1] Suffering

- "You have but little power" (Revelation 3:8), "patient endurance" (3:10), you "have not denied my name" (3:8)
  - Suffering due to opposition (3:8-9). Can we relate? Maybe a little?
  
- What should Christians think about their "enemies"?
  - In this case: suffering at the hands of a "synagogue of Satan"?
  
  - A few timely words on what this *isn't*: anti-Semitism. Why not?
  
- Your enemies will learn that "...I have loved you." (3:9)
  - A beautiful vindication!

### [2] Victory

- "your crown" (3:11), "The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God" (3:12, see also 3:7-8)
  
- The entirety of Revelation 1-3 is picture after picture of a victorious Christ!
  - Does this encourage you? If not, why?

### Questions for Reflection and Application:

1. Read Revelation 3:7-13. As a believer in Christ, can you/we relate to the weakness and opposition described of the Church in Philadelphia? (For many the answer is Yes *and* No.)
  - a. Is there a danger in reflecting upon our weakness and the opposition against us?
  - b. Is there a danger in *not* reflecting upon this weakness and opposition?
2. Note all the victorious, triumphant images and encouragements. Do they encourage you?
  - a. The truth is that many American Christians aren't particularly encouraged by these victorious images, as compared to other truths taught in Scripture. Why is this? Is this true for you?