Journey Through the Bible: Revelation
Session 8: Philadelphia, The Church of Brotherly Love (Rev. 3:7-13)
Remember Acts 17:11

The Revelation (Singular)
Special Blessing Reserved for the Reader (1:3)

Outline: "Write what you…"
-Have Seen (Ch. 1)
-**What Is Now** (Ch. 2-3)
-What Will Take Place Later (Ch. 4-22)

What Is Now (Ch. 2-3) Letters to Local Churches:
-Located in Asia Minor (Modern Turkey)
-Facing Both Internal and External Threats
-Christ Offers a Remedy
-Reflections Exist in Our Churches Today

Levels of Application:
-Local Churches with Local Church Problems
-Personal Challenges Within the Church
-Open Letters So that Every Church Can Learn
-Prophetic Insight into the Church Age

Areas of Meaning:
-The Name of the Church
-The Title Christ Chooses for Himself
-Commendation
-Concern
-Instruction
-Promise to the Overcomer

Previous Concerns in Brief:
Ephesus: Programs and Doctrine Lacking Devotion
Smyrna: Hold Fast in Times of Persecution
Pergamum: The Church MUST Have Different Values than the Fallen Culture Surrounding it
Thyatira: Discipleship Requires Discipline
Sardis: All Appearance and No Substance

History and Culture of Philadelphia:
-Presently Ataşehir, Turkey
-Built in 189BC by Pergamos
-Named in Honor of Attalus II (Brother of Eumenes II)
-Φιλαδέλφεια – Brotherly Love
-Hellenistic (Greek) Culture and Religious Majority
-Center for Hellenistic Cultural/Civil Outreach
-Area Made Famous for Wine Production
 -Patron Deity Dionysus
-Located on a Principal Trade Route (Rome and Phrygia)
 -Became a Center for Missionary Operations
-Region Referred to as "The Burned Land"
 -Prone to Volcanic and Seismic Activity
 -Almost Destroyed by Earthquake in 17AD
 -Received Assistance from Tiberius
 -Renamed Neo-Caesarea (Philadelphia After Vespasian)
 -Governed through Sardis During John's Lifetime
-Ignatius of Antioch Writes of Persecution from the Local Jewish Religious Authorities
-Over Time Many Converted and Were Contrite Over the Previous Antagonism

Title of Christ (v.7):
-ἅγιος "Agios" – "Holy"
 "Physically Pure"
 "Morally Blameless"
 "Consecrated"
 -Called by the Seraphim (Isa. 6:3)
 -Declared at Jesus' Birth (Luke 1:35)
 -Preached About His Sacrifice (Acts 2:27)
 -In His Office as High Priest (Heb. 7:25)

-ἀληθινός "Alathionos" – "True"
 - "In every respect corresponding to the idea signified by the name, real, true, genuine." (Jn. 17:3; 1 Jn. 5:20)
 - "Contrasts realities with their semblances" (Lk. 1:75)
 - "Sincere" (Ps. 2; 24)

Key of David (Isa. 22:20-24):
-Instillation of a New Treasurer (Eliakim)
-Badge of Office: Large Key Carried Over the Shoulder (Mat. 18:19-20)
-Authority Over Access to the King (Jn. 14:6)

Commendation (v. 8-10):
-I Know Your Deeds (Approval)
-Open Door (No One Can Shut)
 -Door to Ministry (1 Cor. 16:9; 2 Cor 2:12; Col. 4:3)
 -Door to Deliverance (Gen. 7:16; Mat. 25:1-10; John 10:7-9)
-You Have a Little Strength (Endurance)
-Kept My Word (Study & Proclamation of the Gospel)
-Not Denied My Name (Loyalty)
-Punishment for False Witnesses
  - "Jews who are not…"
  -Persecutors Disguised as Believers
  -Jews by Culture/Genealogy but NOT Belief
  -Jewish Converts Spreading Legalism
  -Will Be Compelled to Propper Worship (Phil. 2:10-11)
-Exemption from a Global Trial (Testing)
 -πειρασμός "Peirasmos": "Testing" (Noun)
  "The Testing"
 -κατοικέω "Katokeo": "to dwell"
  "Permanently Dwelling In"

Instruction (v. 11-12):
- "I am coming soon."
- "Hold on… no one takes your crown."
  -Already Qualified
  -Potential for Disqualification
  -Implied Loyalty to the Church's Mission
-1300's Philadelphia Became Self Governing
 -Christian
 -Held Against the Ottoman Invasion Until 1390
 -Last Christian City of Asia Minor to Fall

Promise to the Overcomer (v. 12)
-A Pillar in the Temple
 -Image of Strength and Stability
 -Eternal Citizenship in Heaven
-Writing the Name of God
  -The Name of Christ
  -The Name of the New Jerusalem

Prophetic Insight (Reformation and Evangelism):
-Denominational Formation and Crystallization
-Missionary Fervor and Spread of Missionaries
-Global Missional Outreach (Spreading)
-Revival of Apologetics
-Revival of Biblical Theology

For Session 9:
-Read Rev. 3:14-22 (x2)
-Where is Christ in This Church?
-Who is Running This Church?
-Personal Experiences?
-Journal and Discuss in Groups.