

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....” John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a



MISSIONARY OF THE WEEK

Dr. Richard Morgan | N. American Baptist Missions



PRAISE

- Praise God for the continued work with the people of the Wild River Indian Reservation. Souls are being saved, the church is growing and lives are being changed.
- Praise God for all of those who have supported and continue to support his ministry.

PRAY

- Pray for monthly support to Dr. Morgan to finish strong. He has been losing support because of his age but he wants to finish strong. He has also had a major lose of meat when his freezer failed. It was full of items that he had saved from hunting and fishing.
- Pray for Zechariah, Dr. Morgan's son, his car has broken down.
- Pray for upcoming meetings in New Mexico.

Philadelphia: Growing In Evangelism

The church at Philadelphia was one of seven churches addressed in Revelation 2—3. The others are the churches at Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, and Laodicea. Of the seven only Smyrna and Philadelphia are not rebuked for any shortcomings. Philadelphia is commended most strongly, and Jesus says to the church at Philadelphia, “Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut” (Revelation 3:8, ESV).

The opening to Philadelphia’s letter includes an identification of the Author as holy, true, and having the key of David. He is the One who opens and closes when no one else has that authority (Revelation 3:7). This reference is an affirmation of the Messiah’s identity, first spoken of in Isaiah 22:22, and initially referencing the authority of Eliakim son of Hilkiah, who temporarily had that power. The Messiah would possess the authority permanently. The Messiah says to the church of Philadelphia that He knows their deeds, and He has put before them an open door that no one can shut. Jesus explains why He opens that door: they had a little power, they had kept His word, and they had not denied His name. There is no explanation in the context regarding what door Jesus referenced. But there is biblical precedent for understanding what that open door referred to.

In the Hebrew Scriptures, we find Yahweh granting the authority to open doors (for example, in Isaiah 22:22 to Eliakim and in Isaiah 45:1 to Cyrus). By introducing Himself as the One who opens doors in Revelation 3:7, Jesus affirms His authority. He has the authority to provide the church of Philadelphia the opportunities He desires them to have. The specific door may be a chance for unbelievers in Philadelphia to come to the church and acknowledge that God has loved the believers in Philadelphia (Revelation 3:9). Jesus also references keeping the Philadelphians from the coming hour of testing that was coming to the whole world (Revelation 3:10). Each of these statements presents interpretive challenges, but, in any case, it is evident that the Philadelphian believers’ faithfulness resulted in their receiving some special opportunities given from the One who had the authority to bestow those privileges.

In the New Testament, God provided open doors, as well. In Acts 14:27 the churches gather at Antioch to celebrate God’s opened door of faith for the Gentiles. If the Revelation 3:8 context is related to the Antiochene reference, then perhaps the open door granted was for the proclaiming of the Word of God in Philadelphia.

While we cannot say dogmatically what it means when Jesus says, “I have set before you and open door” to the church at Philadelphia, we can have confidence that the One making the statement has the authority to make it, and that it is likely that the believers in Philadelphia understood the open door before them.

The obvious implication for the believers at Philadelphia was to make the most of the opportunity that open door would provide, and we today ought also to be alert to the stewardships and opportunities that God provides us. We should not waste the open doors that Jesus has opened. We should appreciate that they have come from the One who has authority to provide those opportunities. Because the Lord has provided them, they are important. Let’s make the most of them!

Resource: Gotquestions.org

KEY VERSE

Revelation 3:8 (NKJV)

"I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name."

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Revelation 3:7-8a; Isaiah 22:22; John 14:6

Present The Identity Of Jesus

1. Revelation 3:7 refers to Jesus as *"He who has the key of David."* What characteristic of Jesus does this verse refer to? What others are named?
2. What extremely important truth is revealed to us in John 14:6. Who is "the one" who holds the key to heaven for us all?

Tuesday: Revelation 3:8b; Acts 14:2; II Cor. 2:12; Colossians 4:3

Look For Open Doors To Share Jesus

3. What is Acts 14:2 calling us as believers to take part in? What action does this verse demonstrate in terms of sharing our faith?
4. Colossians 4:3 is clearly instructing us to "pray" for opportunities to share our faith. What opportunities has God given YOU?

Wednesday: Revelation 3:8c; II Corinthians 12:9

Rely On The Power Of Jesus

5. What does Revelation 3:8c reveal to us about "our strength"?
6. Jesus states in II Corinthians 12:9; *"My strength is made perfect in weakness."* How does this verse relate to His power working through us?

Thursday: Rev. 3:8; II Cor. 5:18-19; Rev. 3:8e; Matt. 10:32-33

Keep The Word Of Jesus And Do Not Deny His Name

7. In Revelation 3:8 Jesus says He has given us *"an open door"* because we have *"kept His word"* How well are YOU keeping to His word?
8. What message do you receive from II Corinthians 5:18-19? How would you explain these verses to a new believer? What is the overall theme?
9. What promise does Jesus make to His faithful in Matthew 10:32? According to verse 33 what will happen to those who deny His name?

Friday: Revelation 3:9-13; I Corinthians 16:9

Persevere In Serving Jesus

10. According to Revelation 3:9-10, What will happen to the *"synagogue of Satan"*? What about those who keep His *"command to persevere"*?
11. What is Revelation 3:11 warning us of in the statement *"Hold fast to what you have, that no one may take your crown"*?
12. I Corinthians 16:9 Paul states: *"For a great and effective door has opened to me."* While Paul sees opportunity here, what challenge surrounded him?