Rev. 3:8

SUBJECT: The Church of The

D Jun 9, 1968



Rev. 3: 8

THE CHURCH OF THE OPEN DOOR

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Chapter 3 ...

CONTENTS: The letters to the churches continue. These three while being actual churches and having the problems met here also represent GREAT church systems. Sardis refers as well to the church of the Reformation. Philapdelphia to the great missionary church from 1700 to the present day. Laodicea the liberal, modernist church of the end times.

• The word Sardis means "remnant." It was a church with possibility but little accomplishment. There was soundness of doctrine but no zeal in experience. To these Christians the risen Lord gives both warning and encouragement. Sardis also stands for the great church of the Reformation. Coming out of the falsity of Roman Catholicism they became lost in cold orthodoxy. With unprecedented opportunities before them, they were failing to meet the challenge. While the Roman Catholic church thundered anathemas of excommunication, our Lord promises that He will not blot out their names from His Book of life.

• The term Philadelphia means "brotherly love." Here was a church no doubt filled with people which had true affection for one another. It was a working church and one that laid emphasis upon the Bible as the Word of God and upon the centrality of the Person of Christ in Christian experience. Because of their faithfulness, the risen Christ promises deliverance from the hour of temptation. This also symbolizes the great Tribulation period which was and is to come. This is the one letter where no censure is given.

The Philadelphia church stands as well for the great missionary movement of the present day. They are not possessed of great power, but they are promised an open door to missionary endeavor the world around. Also to this church the risen Christ promises a swift return and many wonderful bless.

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