

Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of Oct 14, 2018



Pastor Temple 10am

Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15-20 min)

- Anything to share about the past week? About follow-ups from last Sunday's message, "Will You Care For One Another?"
- Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

- Opener: When have you been locked out? How did you get in?

Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the sermon scripture below, Revelation 3:7-13. Know that it is ok to skip some questions below in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

“To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: 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. ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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.

¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. ¹² The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. 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. ¹³ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?

- In verse 7, Jesus quotes Isaiah 22:22, claiming the authority Eliakim, one who determined access to the king. He then said he has placed an open door before them that no one can shut. What do you believe this open door represents? Could there be more than one intended meaning, if so what are they?
- Of the seven churches addressed here, this one in Philadelphia is the only one to which is not directly described in negative terms. What do you believe is being asked of this congregation by Jesus?
- What is being promised to them?
- How can salvation mean being rescued from something as well as being rescued to something? What are the “somethings?”
- 2 Peter 3:9b says “He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” How would you describe the heart of God as revealed to us in this verse?
- How does this verse inform our understanding of Jesus’ marching orders for His church?

Another Related Scripture (10 min)

- Would a volunteer please read John 3:13-18. Verse 13 references Numbers 21:8-9, when those perishing from poisonous snake bites were granted healing if they, in faith, looked upon the snake which Moses put on a bronze pole. What are we to make of this comparison in the next verse with the means of eternal life in the Son? What of the cross?
- 3:16-18 includes the open terms of “whoever believes” in the Son as having eternal life, and “whoever does not believe” standing condemned already. Does the church have an influence on how people may or may not come to belief in Christ? How so? What other factors might be involved?
- How is the open door of Revelation of 3:8, a door that no one can shut, similar to the gift of salvation in Christ in John 3?

Personalizing and Applying The Message (15 min)

- What were points of encouragement or challenge for you personally in the sermon and in the reflections upon the additional scripture above?
- In what ways may we as a church lift up Christ in such a way that others can see Him and come to belief in Him?
- What might create in us a stronger sense of urgency to do so?

Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)

- What open doors has Christ placed before those of us in this group and how have we taken advantage of them?
- The group leader or another volunteer who took notes on the prayer requests shared earlier in the meeting, may now lead the group in closing prayer.