



# THREE SPIRITUAL KEYS



# The Condition of Christendom

- ◆ First Century: within the same generation as Christ and the apostles (Revelations 2 & 3)
  - Ephesus: megachurch with numerous ministries, but no love
  - Pergamum: preaching message of compromise with the world
  - Thyatira: allowed God-ordained authority to be overturned
  - Sardis: had good reputation, but in reality, completely dead
  - Laodicea: proud of being big/rich, but Jesus not in their midst
- ◆ If that was the last hour (I John 2:18), we're in the dying minutes today!



# The Condition of Christendom

- ◆ Today in America:
  - printed Bibles and Christian books liberally available
  - all sorts of Bible study tools, including Greek & Hebrew
  - numerous churches in each town, that people can easily leave one church offended and join another one down the road
- ◆ But, same sad state of affairs:
  - megachurches that need stadiums; all for their own name
  - churches actually proud of their “seeker-sensitive” compromise
  - God-ordained authority is constantly overruled in churches
  - many dead churches are deemed living based on attendance
  - churches claim the “two or three” promise; Jesus is outside



# The Church Approved by *Christ*

- ◆ the church in Philadelphia (Revelation 3:7-13)
- ◆ surrounded by lukewarm Christianity
- ◆ received a full commendation from the Lord
  
- ◆ our mission as a church
- ◆ age of darkness of sin and religiosity
- ◆ how should we live: individual/family/church



# “I Know Your Deeds”

- ◆ Lord searches the hearts and judges motives...
- ◆ Revelation 3:8
- ◆ Man judges externally...
- ◆ “I see your deeds. Behold I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a lot of strength, you have kept up your numerous ministry programs, and your church is a popular name in town.”

# What does God approve?

◆ keys to the open door which no one can shut:



1. “You have a little strength”



2. “You have kept My Word”



3. “You have not denied My Name”



# 1. “You have a little strength”

- ◆ the human problem : self-dependence
- ◆ began with Adam & Eve
- ◆ we know how to fix things
  - beginning with the 2-lb problems
  - then the 10-lb problems
  - God mercifully allows the 1000-lb problems
- ◆ areas: job, finances, children, marriage, church

# 1. “You have a little strength”

- ◆ an attitude of *poverty of spirit* (Matthew 5:3)
- ◆ “the daughter of faith” (Mark 5:25-34)
  - taken advantage of, spent all, grew worse
  - not all her efforts, but her little strength (faith)
- ◆ contrasting results (Jeremiah 17:5-8):
  - self-dependence: desert bush, stony waste
  - God-dependence: watered tree, flourishing fruit
- ◆ the center of it all (Psalm 118:8)



## 2. “You have kept My Word”

- ◆ begins with valuing God’s Word (Psalm 119)
- ◆ God’s Word – a solution for every situation:
  - verses: 9; 11; 22-23; 38; 45; 50,92; 86, 98, 99, 110, 141, 165, 173
- ◆ how much do you value God’s Word?:
  - verses: 136, 147, 148, 164
- ◆ the difference between reading and meditation




## 2. “You have kept My Word”

- ◆ “kept” = heard and obeyed
  - a life built on the rock (Luke 6:46-49)
  - blessed in whatever you do (James 1:22-25)
- ◆ proof:
  - that you love God : keep His Word (John 14:15,23)
  - that you know God: keep His commandments (I John 2:3)
- ◆ promise if you keep My Word:
  - Father will love you and make His home in you (John 14:23)
  - you will never see death (John 8:51)
  - you will be given the Holy Spirit (John 14;15-16)
  - Jesus’ intercession for eternal life for you (John 17:1-9)



### 3. “You have not denied My Name”

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- ◆ professing Christ’s Name:
    - the Christ/Messiah (Matthew 16:16)
    - the only source of salvation (Acts 4:12)
    - God, the Son of God (I John 2:22-23)
    - the Son of Man who came in flesh like us (I John 4:2)
  
  - ◆ honoring God’s Name:
    - Matthew 6:9-10
    - more than mere words; but *living out*: “Your will be done”
  
  - ◆ power in the name of Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20)

### 3. “You have not denied My Name”

#### ◆ personal:

- Is Christ’s glory foremost in our goals and ambitions?
- are we unashamed of Jesus at work (co-workers)
- are we unashamed of Jesus with folks around us? (neighbors)

#### ◆ family:

- is Christ’s glory our foremost desire for our children?
- is Jesus comfortable living in our homes?

#### ◆ church:

- is it our only desire that Christ be glorified through our church?
- do we desire that our church be famous on earth?



# An Open Door

- ◆ no greater certificate of approval than for the Lord to put an open door before us
- ◆ do you find yourself standing before a closed door? – spiritual, relational, material/financial
- ◆ the hope of a new name, as the bride of Christ! (Revelation 3:12)

