

Revelation

How Jesus Changes the World

Revelation 3:7-13

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / September 20, 2026

I. Jesus Is the Only One Who Can Save You

Revelation 3:7 "...The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens."

The one who has the key has authority, power, and control. Since He's talking about the key of David, He's talking about the kingdom of God - who gets in and who doesn't.

He's talking about salvation! His life, death, and resurrection opened a way for sinful people like us to be made right with God.

John 14:6 "Jesus answered, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.'"

That's what He was talking about in **John 10:7-9, 17, 27-28**.

II. Jesus Wants to Use You to Step into What He's Doing Around You

That's what He's talking about in **v. 8** where He's still talking about an open door that no one can shut, but now He's talking about opportunities He's giving you to get in on what He's doing!

Revelation 3:8 "...Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut..."

He's talking to the church in Philadelphia. He's saying, "I've got open doors all around you that I want you to see! I don't want you to knock down doors. I just need you to step into the doors that I've opened for you that nobody can shut!"

That word "behold" is the only command that He gives them! He says it three times because so often God has opened a door of opportunity where He wants to use us and we don't see it because we're so caught up in right-here-right-now. We don't even have eyes to see the people around us.

The Apostle Paul used this image of a door of opportunity to share the Gospel with others all through his letters in the New Testament.

1 Corinthians 16:8-9 "...I will stay on at Ephesus until Pentecost, ⁹ because a great door for effective work has opened for me..."

But when Jesus gives an open door to share the Gospel, it doesn't mean there won't be any obstacles.

1 Corinthians 16:9 "...and there are many who oppose me."

He also spoke about an open door in his second letter to the Corinthians.

2 Corinthians 2:12 "When I went to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ a door was opened for me in the Lord."

He asked the Christians in Colossae to pray for an open door.

Colossians 4:3 (NIV) “...that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ...”

This doesn’t just apply to the Apostle Paul. This is the way God wants to use every believer! See **2 Corinthians 5:14-15, 17-21**.

God’s opening doors. Do you see them? When you do see them, are you willing to step in?

III. Jesus Will Do All the Heavy Lifting

Revelation 3:9 “Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie – behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet...”

That had to be encouraging! He was telling them that the group that was harassing them the most was actually going to come to faith in Christ!

There are certain people and groups that are coming hard against Christianity right now, but you need to realize that Jesus is in control and is going to save a bunch of them!

Jesus is moving in our cities all over the world! He has the keys of power and authority and says to us, “Behold! Look! Don’t miss it! I have set before you an open door which no one can shut!”

That phrase changes everything! Once He opens a door, no one can shut it because Jesus has thrown open the door for the nations to come in and no one can stop it!

The global Church of Jesus Christ is not shrinking. It’s shifting to the very places where it’s hardest to be a Christian. That’s where the Gospel is spreading the most.

It’s not spreading through political power, not through vast resources, and not through cultural ease, but through ordinary, weak people telling other people where they found hope.

IV. Jesus Knows What You Can and Cannot Do

A. He Doesn’t Expect You to Be Powerful

v. 8 “...I know that you have but **little power...**”

B. He Expects You to Be Obedient

v. 8 “...and yet you have **kept My word...**”

C. He Expects You to Speak His Name

v. 8 “...and have **not denied My name.**”

D. He Expects You to Persevere

v. 10 “...you have kept My word about **patient endurance...**”

NIV “...you have kept My command **to persevere...**”