



Revelation 3:7-13

The Faithful Church: Present and Future

Big Idea: The faithful church values spiritual depth above breadth.

Non-Signs of Faithfulness

1.) **POPULARITY** (Revelation 3:1)

2.) **PROSPERITY** (Revelation 3:17)

Marks of the Faithful Church

1.) Pursuit of **HOLINESS** (v. 7a)

-- Christ is creating for Himself a bride, and what makes His bride beautiful is holiness (Leviticus 19:2, Ephesians 5:25-27).

2.) Conviction of **TRUTH** (v. 7b)

-- It is by the *Word* of God that the *Spirit* of God is instilling the *holiness* of God in the *people* of God (Ephesians 5:25-27, John 17:17).

-- The faithful church must be a people of the Book.

3.) **EXCLUSIVITY** of the Gospel (v. 7c)

-- "*The holy one, the true one, who has the key of David*" is a reference to Isaiah 22:22.

-- Much like Eliakim was given sole authority over the entrance to an earthly palace, Jesus Christ has sole authority over the entrance to eternal life (John 10:9, John 14:6).

-- The faithful church stands unwaveringly upon the exclusivity of the Gospel.

4.) ENDURANCE through Trials (v. 8, 10)

- For all of its spiritual depth, the church in Philadelphia still labored in weakness.
- Though it may not have been blessed with popularity or prosperity, it was blessed with something far more valuable PERSERVERANCE
- Because of their patient endurance, this little church in Philadelphia receives the most robust statement of encouragement from Jesus.

Application

1.) Focus on DEPTH let God take care of BREATH

- By His letters to the churches, Jesus makes clear that bigger is not always better.
- Concentrate on substance of Christian living, and then let God take care of the scope.
- The call to *hold fast to what we have* is a call to authenticity in the church among God's people.