

The Year of the Revelation

~ Philadelphia, The Church of the Open Door, Pt 2 ~

A Time of Rediscovering the Call of Christ - "To Make Disciples of All Nations"

The church and its establishment focused more on the church and the inward focus of membership in good standing – vs– the Gospel.

During the Sardis era of Reformation, there was a return to the Bible and salvation by grace through faith. But the internal struggles were so great that once again the attention was not in getting the message out!

Now in the Philadelphia era, the primary emphasis returned to spreading the gospel and seeing people from every nation saved!

Historical Focus

Philadelphia was located where three countries joined together. (Ancient lands of Mysia, Lydia, and Phrygia) Because of the location the king of Pergamus made Philadelphia a missionary city to spread Hellenization to those countries. (Greek language, culture, literature, and the way of life.)

Philadelphia, a good example and unique opportunity for the Christians' message to influence the nations. How to have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ - To influence the way they talked, lived, and hoped.

The Philadelphia Era became the greatest era since the Apostolic Age for:

- (1) Expanding God's kingdom and the coming to Christ of the masses!
- (2) Missionary work since the apostle Paul and others brought the gospel to their known world.

Now the population has grown and the occupancy of the entire earth was being achieved. The call for missionaries to go to those who had never heard was more needed than ever.

During this era, God provided open doors to almost every nation! China, Asia, India, others!

The Philadelphia Church took full advantage of this open door and planted the seed of the gospel and established churches in points around the world.

* The Philadelphia Church is the church of missionaries; it is the church of evangelists; it is the church of Bible Societies; it is the church of soul winners; it is the church of world-wide preaching of the gospel of the Son of God! * (W. A. Criswell)

Let me introduce you to a few of the heroes of the faith who were instruments God used in this time of the open door for evangelism and missions:

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

Dwight L. Moody

John Wesley

Charles Wesley

Hudson Taylor

William Carey

Adoniram Judson

Lottie Moon

Dr. T. W. Ayers

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~ Philadelphia, The Church of the Open Door, Pt 2, Page 2 ~

Biblical Focus

“I have put before you an open door that no one can shut.”

“I am coming quickly, hold fast what you have, in order that no one take your crown.”

*A Call to Stay at the Task of Evangelism and Missions *

More important now than any time because the time is drawing near for His return!

Our crown - The lives of people we have played a part in helping come to Jesus:

- (1) By Telling!
- (2) By Praying!
- (3) By Giving!
- (4) By Going!