**Rev. 3:7 ...** "***he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;***" In **Col. 4:3** Paul asks for prayer that a "***door of utterance***"would be opened to him to preach the mystery of Christ. He is talking about God opening up an ***opportunity*** to preach the gospel. In **1 Cor. 16:9** we see that God did just that for Paul in Ephesus. Notice that an "***open door***" doesn't mean that there won't be ***opposition***. **2 Cor. 2:12** talks about a similar door being opened to him at ***Troas***. This "open door" in **Rev. 3:7** has to do with the ***missionary*** nature of the Philadelphian church. During this period of church history the preaching of the gospel spread around the world like never before. With worldwide ***exploration***, ***colonization*** and ever expanding ***trade routes***, the gospel was indeed not just reaching Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, but the "***uttermost part of the earth***". It was during this period of church history that we read of the Reformation, the King James Bible, The Great Awakening, and numerous revivals, some on a national scale. This was the "*hey day*" of the evangelist. No church or man opened this door, only God. It is also God who shuts the door!

**Vs. 8** says, "***I know thy works***." I believe these are probably the very works the Ephesians had forgotten (**2:5**), "***the first works***".They had forgotten to do the "***first works***" because they had neglected their "***first love***". (**2:4**) When you love the Saviour as you should then you are going to want to tell others about your Saviour! The preaching of the gospel is the first works. We want to ***evangelize***! Because they desired an opportunity, God opens a door for this church, a door that no man can shut!

...."***for thou hast a little strength***," When we have little strength we depend upon the Lord. We lean upon Him.

*I hear the Saviour say*

*Thy strength indeed is small*

*Child of weakness, watch and pray.*

*Find in me thine*

*All in all!*

**2 Cor. 12:9-10** make it abundantly clear that God's strength is perfected in weakness. This truth is personified in the person of Paul, who was weak and anemic in body, and yet was probably the most powerful preacher who has ever lived, aside from the Lord Jesus Christ, Himself. (**2 Cor. 10:10-11**)

"***and hast kept my word***." Obviously, the "word" here is not the "***originals***". They would not have heard Jesus speak. It would appear that God's word extends beyond the "***originals***" down to the "***copies***" and the "***copies of copies***"! They kept not just the "***message***" but the very words. **This is the true test of love!** (**John 14:23**)

"***and hast not denied my name***" The church in Pergamos was said to have held fast His name. Here, the Philadelphian church is commended for the same. Considering **Phil. 2:9-11**, it would be foolish indeed to deny His name. Yet, many churches today deemphasize His name and opt for the more inclusive "God". God can mean many things to many people, but the name, Jesus Christ, is very exclusive and definite. It is at the name of Jesus Christ that people are offended.

**Vs. 9** reveals that this church was having the same problem that presented itself in the church in Smyrna (**2:9**) There were those who blasphemously were claiming to be Jews but were not. They were of the synagogue of Satan. Here the Lord says that He will make these imposters of the synagogue of Satan. In other words He will "*make them*" or expose them. Paul distinguished between the natural Jew and the spiritual Jew in (**Rom. 2:28,29**). The former has been circumcised in the ***flesh***, the latter in the ***heart***! As to these being made "to come and worship before thy feet"; this can only be a reference to the Great White Throne, where the Bridegroom and His Bride (the church) will be seated upon the throne.(**3:21; Phil. 2:9-11; Rev. 20:11-15**.)