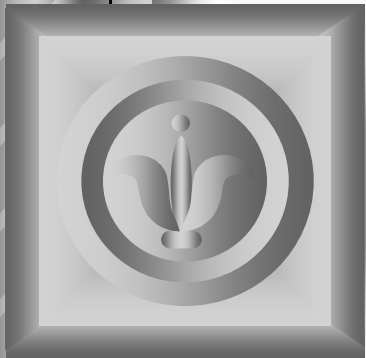


# ***Are We a Faithful Church?***



**Series: What Kind of  
Church Are We?**

**October 16, 2011**

# Suffering...

- ...affects people in very different ways. Some are changed for the *better*... others are changed for the *worse*.

# **Suffering was...**

- **...the problem in**

## **Philadelphia**

- **The church was suffering under oppression from the Jews**
- **Had to determine if their suffering would be a blessing or a curse**

# Revelation 3:7

**“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: *He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this:*”**

# The Image

**Holy...*set apart, a cut above***  
***(Isaiah 6:3; 40:25; Hab. 3:3)***

**True...*genuine, authentic***

**The key of David...*all***  
***authority to create***  
***opportunities and grant***  
***entrance into heaven and***  
***the New Jerusalem (Isaiah***  
***22)***

# ***Jesus did not...***

- **...have a *commendation* for Sardis...neither did He have a *condemnation* for *Philadelphia* or *Smyrna*.**

# *Question...*

- **...what is a faithful church?**

# *Definition...*

- **...marked by or showing a strong sense of duty or responsibility**  
**...unfailing love and devotion**

# ***Our Responsibility...***

- **1 Peter 2:13-20**

# ***Our Example...***

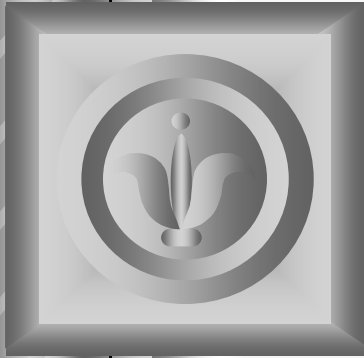
- **1 Peter 2:21-25**

# *The Message...*

- **God does not call His church to *succeed* or *fail*... He calls us to be *faithful***

# *Key Question...*

- **...how do you know if your church is a faithful church?**



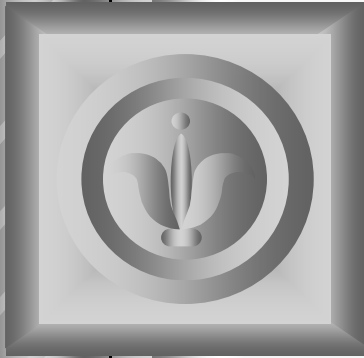
***Faithfulness is  
trusting in  
God's strength  
and not in your  
own.***

# Revelation 3:8-9

“‘I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, ***because you have a little power***, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name. Behold, I will cause ***those*** of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and ***make them*** know that I have loved you.

# *Key Question...*

- **...how do you know if your church is a faithful church?**



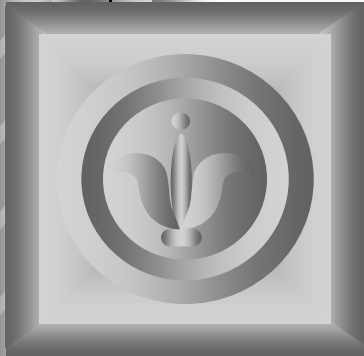
***Faithfulness is  
trusting God's  
precepts before  
He gives the  
promise of His  
protection.***

# Revelation 3:10

Because you have *kept the word of My perseverance*, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

# *Key Question...*

- **...how do you know if your church is a faithful church?**



***Faithfulness is  
not in starting  
fast but in  
finishing  
strong.***

# Revelation 3:11-13

**I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown. He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'**