***To the Church at Philadelphia***

**Revelation 3.7-13**

**Canon City EFC 3-26-17**

MAIN IDEA: Because Jesus guarantees our way forward to eternity, His call for us is simply to keep

our eyes on Him & hold fast, even when we have little strength. His strength is enough

SUPPORTING IDEAS:

We’re on a journey, from this broken world to the one He is preparing (cf Heb 13-16; I Pet 2.11)

* The land they live in; the daily life they experience is difficult:
* Opposition – in this case persecution from the synagogue, according to Jesus, of Satan,
* weakness: Jesus says *I know you have little strength*;
* Where they (& we) are going, v.12 (cf Rev 21.9-27)
* God’s city, but they belong there, bear the name of His city
* Belong to Him, bear His name, & will stay forever
* Strength (“pillar”) replacing their weakness
* Perfect, coming down from heaven
* But it’s a long road from here to there

Jesus’ Promise: He ensures arrival

* He knows them: their deeds, 8; their weakness, 8; their faithful endurance, 8 & 10
* What He’s doing (this is His work/power, not ours)
  + He ensures their success, v.8 – an open door, no one can shut
  + He will defeat their enemies and vindicate them, 9
  + He will guard them through trial, v.10
  + He will return, v.11

Jesus’ Call

* See & hear Him, 8 & 13
* *Hold on to what you have,*
* *Endure patiently, v.10* His command

Jesus’ Reward, v.12

* As we trust Him today, He will ensure we spent eternity with Him

CONCLUSION / APPLICATION:

The church in Philadelphia faced opposition and had little to counter it – she had “little strength”, 8. When have you felt you had “little strength”?

What is Jesus’ promise in our weakness, v.8?

What is His call to us? Why is it important to “see” (or “behold”, basically ‘*pay attention’*) to what He is doing, v.8? Why is it important to “hear”, v.13? What competes for our attention?

What does ‘holding fast’, ‘enduring patiently’ look like for you? Why, given Jesus’ promise, is that enough?