

OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND

(2 Corinthians 2 :12)

Introduction:

1. Mr. Webster describes an opportunity as “a set of circumstances providing a chance or possibility.” (*New Webster’s Dictionary of the English Language*)
2. Opportunities present themselves in a variety of ways. (*Some good and some bad.*)
3. What do you do with the opportunities that present themselves to you in your life?

I. Paul’s Opportunity #1

- A. (2 Corinthians 2:12)
- B. Paul says that he had a door opened to him.
 1. Another rendering for the word “door” here is the word “opportunity.”
- C. (Acts 16:9-10)
 1. In a vision Paul sees a man from Macedonia bidding Paul to come and help.
 2. Paul immediately departs to Macedonia.
- D. (Acts 16:11-40)
 1. Paul found those who sought God and preached to them. (Acts 16:13-14)
 2. Lydia and her household were the first converts of Macedonia. (Acts 16:15)
 3. Shortly afterward, Paul and Silas were thrown into prison. (Acts 16:22-24)
 4. Another opportunity was presented to convert the jailer. (Acts 16:26-34)
 5. After leaving the prison, Paul encouraged the brethren. (Acts 16:40)
- E. As a result of this opportunity, Paul begins the evangelism of a new continent.
 1. Read the book of Philippians for more.

II. Paul’s Continuing Opportunities

- A. (Acts 17:1-4)
 1. Paul travels on to Thessalonica to discuss scripture.
 2. The discussion of Jesus as the Christ lasted for three days and some of them were persuaded. (Acts 16:2-4)
- B. (Acts 17:10-14)
 1. Paul and Silas were sent to Berea where they entered the synagogue. (Acts 16:10)
 2. These Bereans received the word and searched daily. (Acts 17:11)
 - a. They hungered and they were filled. (Matthew 5:6)
- C. (Acts 17:16-34)
 1. Paul was sent to Athens.
 2. Paul took the opportunity to address those philosophers at Athens concerning their altars. (Acts 17:22-31)
 3. Paul’s words were received well by some (Acts 17:34), some postponed the discussion (Acts 17:32) and some mocked (Acts 17:32).
- D. Notice that in each one of Paul’s opportunities not everyone to whom Paul addressed believed, but he still continued.

III. Your Opportunity #___

- A. You have had opportunities. You have opportunities. You will continue to have opportunities, Lord willing. What will you do?

- B. You will have opportunities to speak to others about the gospel:
 - 1. Are you ready to give an answer? (1 Peter 3:15)
 - 2. Are you ready to aid them in their studies? (Acts 8:31)
 - 3. Are you ready to receive an opportunity? (1 Corinthians 16:9)
- C. You have an opportunity to obey the gospel?
 - 1. Those on the day of Pentecost took advantage of the opportunity. (Acts 2)
 - 2. Felix postponed his response to the gospel never to take the opportunity again. (Acts 24:25)
- D. Where are your opportunities?
 - 1. You have opportunities everywhere that you will look, but you must look.

Conclusion:

- 1. As the old saying goes, "Each day is a new horizon." That simply means that each day presents you with a host of new opportunities.
- 2. God gives you opportunities, now what will you do with them.