

## The Door of Opportunity

### Introduction:

1. The word "door" is used in various ways in the Bible.
2. For example,:
  - a. the Bible often mentions a literal "door" [a barrier used to open and close an entryway] (Mark 2:1-2)
  - b. Jesus referred to Himself as "*the door*" in a figurative sense (John 10:7, 9)
  - c. "*door*" sometimes refers to a special opportunity.
3. In our lesson we are studying passages that mention "the door of opportunity."
4. By studying these verses we can learn useful information that relates to opportunities.

### Discussion:

- I. ACTS 14:26-27
  - A. We read about the missionary journey of Paul and Barnabas in Acts 13-14.
  - B. (Acts 13:1-3) This journey began in Antioch.
  - C. (Acts 14:26) When Paul and Barnabas completed this journey they returned to Antioch.
  - D. (Acts 14:27) They reported to the church about how God had opened "*the door of faith unto the Gentiles*" (Acts 13:14-16, 42, 44-48).
- II. 1 CORINTHIANS 16:7-9
  - A. (vs.7) Paul planned to make an extended visit to Corinth.
  - B. However, he stated in vs.8-9a that he would remain in Ephesus because "*a great door and effectual*" [a great and effective door] had been opened to him.
  - C. He also stated in vs.9b that he faced "*many adversaries.*"
  - D. We read about Paul's work in Ephesus in Acts 19.
    1. After arriving in Ephesus he taught 12 men who were baptized (vs.5-7).
    2. He continued preaching in the synagogue (vs.8).
    3. His adversaries are mentioned in vs.9.
    4. Because Paul remained in Ephesus, many people were taught (vs.10).
- III. 2 CORINTHIANS 2:12
  - A. Paul went to Troas to preach the Gospel of Christ.
  - B. While Paul was in Troas the Lord opened "*a door*" for him.
- IV. COLOSSIANS 4:2-4
  - A. (vs.2-3a) Paul asked the Christians in Colosse to pray for him and his co-workers.
  - B. (vs.3b-4) He specifically asked these Christians to pray that God would open "*a door of utterance*" to him and his friends.
- V. REVELATION 3:7-13
  - A. (vs.7) The Lord described Himself as the One who opens and shuts.
  - B. (vs.8a) The Lord had given "*an open door*" to the church in Philadelphia.
  - C. (vs.8b) The Lord explained why He had given this opportunity to this congregation.
  - D. (vs.9-12) The Lord said He would bless and protect this church as it pursued its opportunity.
  - E. (vs.13) The Lord wants us to hear this message.
- VI. APPLICATION
  - A. We learn from all of these verses that God and Christ provide opportunities.
  - B. We learn from 1 Corinthians 16:9 that adversaries sometimes accompany opportunities.
    1. Satan is our chief adversary (1 Peter 5:8), but he sometimes works through people.
    2. (Revelation 3:9-10) The Lord will enable His people to overcome adversaries.
  - C. We learn from Colossians 4:3 that:
    1. praying for God to open doors of opportunity is appropriate
    2. opportunities may be given in least expected places -- Paul was in prison when he asked the Christians to pray that God would open "*a door of utterance.*"
  - D. We learn from Revelation 3:7-8 that the Lord knows the works of each congregation, and He removes opportunities, in addition to giving them.