

As We Have Opportunity

Galatians 6:10, 1 Peter 3:15

As we have opportunity

- From time to time in our classes and sermons, we mention the importance of opportunities.
- In this lesson I would like to take a closer look at what God's word actually says about this.
- Our text is **Galatians 6:10 and 1 Peter 3:15** (be ready always)

As we have opportunity

- 1. A favorable or advantageous circumstance or combination of circumstances. 2. A chance for progress or advancement. 3. Fit or convenient time or situation.
(American Heritage Dictionary)
- In this lesson I would like to take a closer look at what God's word actually says about opportunities.
- The word in scripture deals with the idea of circumstances presenting themselves in such a way that if you take advantage of it, you will accomplish something.
- Part of the formula: Opportunity + Ability = Responsibility.

As we have opportunity

- Opportunity is found 14x in NT (NKJV).
- There are 3 Greek words:
The most prevalent is καιρός (kairos) - 7x. **Galatians 6:10**. This Greek word is found more than 80x and is mostly associated with time. **Colossians 4:5**
- The second word is ἀφορμή (aphormē) (6x) means a time of convenience. BOTH words have similar meanings.

As we have opportunity

- Opportunities can be good or bad
- Good - **Galatians 6:10**
Philippians 4:10 – desire to help but lacked opportunity
- 1 **Corinthians 16:9** – an open door presented itself
- Acts 3:1-10** – Peter and John heal a lame man
- Jesus is our ultimate example of this – **Luke 19:1-10,**
John 9:4

As we have opportunity

- Opportunities can be good or bad
- Bad opportunities
 - **Galatians 5:13** – using liberties as opportunity for the flesh
 - Mark 6:21** – Herodias sought opportunity
 - Luke 4:13** – Satan departed until a more opportune time
 - Matthew 26:16** – Judas sought opportunity to betray Jesus

As we have opportunity

- We all have opportunities
- Every day, there is a sense in which every decision we make is based upon opportunities – choices to do the right thing or the wrong thing, or to NOT take advantage of an opportunity.
- Even the 1 talent servant had opportunity
 - **Matthew 25:15**

Where we need to be looking for opportunities

- Typically, when we speak of opportunities in sermons/classes we are focusing on spiritual opportunities. This is not about investments/bettering ourselves physically/ambitions/relationships, etc.
- Our concern is with spiritual matters.

Where we need to be looking for opportunities

Let us do good to all

- **Galatians 6:10** - our text
- **James 1:27** – pure and undefiled religion includes helping others
- **Titus 2:14** – zealous for good works
- **Cf. Matthew 25:31-46** – judgment includes examining how we treat others
- **1 Peter 2:12** – conduct honorable among the Gentiles
- While salvation is not earned, we are still expected to obey Him.

Where we need to be looking for opportunities

Do good to our brethren

- **Galatians 6:10** - especially the household of faith
- We often emphasize our spiritual family.
Ephesians 2:19, 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 – we need each other!
- If we are seeking first God's kingdom, then our brethren should always be at the forefront of our decisions.
- **James 2:14ff** – if a brother or sister is destitute...
- Do spiritual good as well - **Hebrews 3:13** – exhort one another, **10:25** – assemble together, **Galatians 6:1** – bear one another's burdens, etc.

Where we need to be looking for opportunities

Grow spiritually

- **2 Peter 3:18** – grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior
- With our calendars, do we build in time for spiritual growth? Does busyness rob us opportunities to grow? **Ephesians 5:15-16**
- Spend time in God's word – **Colossians 1:10** – increasing in knowledge
- Spend time in prayer – **Ephesians 6:18**, **1 Thessalonians 5:17-18**, etc.
- Spiritual mindfulness – **Philippians 2:5, 4:8**; **Colossians 3:1-2**

Where we need to be looking for opportunities

Worship and assembling with the saints

- **Hebrews 10:24-25** – not only is it commanded, but reasons are given – to consider and exhort one another
- Assembling to worship and study God's word are crucial to spiritual growth!
- The opportunities are available. Are we consistent?
- Will we MAKE opportunities? **Cf. Matthew 6:33**

Where we need to be looking for opportunities

Sharing God's Word with others

- When we discuss opportunities this is what we usually think of first. And rightfully so! (Though it is not the only avenue for opportunities)
- **1 Peter 3:15, Matthew 28:19-20, cf. Acts 8:4, etc.**
- A reason behind being a godly example is to open doors – **Matthew 5:16, 1 Peter 2:12**
- Remember – the ONLY way God has provided for us to spread His word is through His disciples.
- Like Paul, are we praying for “open doors”? **Colossians 4:3**

How can we look for opportunities?

Be alert!

- You have to be looking! Be aware of what is going on around you.
- **1 Peter 1:13** – gird up the loins of your mind, be sober...
- **Colossians 4:5-6** – walk in wisdom toward those that are outside, redeeming the time.
Ephesians 5:15-16 – walk circumspectly (carefully).
- **1 Peter 5:8-9** – this also keeps us aware of the devices of Satan

How can we look for opportunities?

Learn to recognize opportunities

- WHAT is your focus? Is it on worldly (wealth, status, advancement, relationships, etc.) or spiritual matters?
- **Colossians 3:1-2** – where is your mindful focus?
Matthew 6:33 – what is really first?
- As we interact with others have we trained ourselves to look at their souls?

How can we look for opportunities?

Be prepared

- When opportunity presents itself, are we prepared?
- How much effort have we put into being prepared?
- If we are not prepared, we may lose that opportunity!
- **Revelation 3:8** – Philadelphia was described as having an open door.
- **1 Corinthians 16:7-9, 2 Corinthians 2:12** – Paul sets the example for us in this. He was ready to walk through open doors, even if it meant adapting his plans.
- **1 Corinthians 9:22** – he became all things to all men to save some

How can we look for opportunities?

Be willing

- Being prepared makes you ready, but it does NOT accomplish the task.
- Am I ready and willing to step up when a need arises? Will I set aside personal pursuits to help others spiritually?
- **Matthew 9:37-38, John 4:35** – Jesus called for disciples to open their eyes because laborers are few. He Himself lived this – **Luke 4:43**
- **James 4:17** – To him who knows to do good...

How can we look for opportunities?

Do not let the opportunity slip away

- Opportunities usually come with a time stamp.
Once a door closes it may not open again!
- Often missed opportunities come with regrets.
- **John 9:4** – the night is coming when no man can work.
- The easiest way to miss out on an opportunity is to do nothing.
- Remember that we are dealing with eternity!

Concluding thoughts:

- Opportunities are important! We need to think about them and be ready when they present themselves.
- We conclude every service with an invitation – an opportunity for you to make yourself right with God if you are not! Because we are still here, you still have that opportunity.
- One day that door will close for you and me. Are you ready?

What are you doing
with the opportunities
before you?

Let us pray!
