

# AN OPEN DOOR

1Cor 16:5-9

## INTRODUCTION:

- A. Apostles worldwide task Mk 16:15,16; Matt 28:19,20
- B. Church's task today Eph 3:10; 1Tim 3:15
- C. Methods used Acts 8:4,5; 20:20; Phil 4:14-16
- D. Our challenge 2Tim 2:2; 4:1-4; Matt 28:19,20

## DISCUSSION:

### I. A GREAT DOOR OPENED

- A. Door represents opportunity
  - 1. Great describes the kind of opportunity
  - 2. Effectual suggest the work involved
  - 3. Open suggest its readiness
- B. Ephesus tired of Paganism
  - 1. All Asia heard Acts 19:10
  - 2. Heard the word of truth & believed Eph 1:13
  - 3. Repentance (burned books \$8000.00) Acts 19:10
- C. We have an open door today
  - 1. Religious world is sin sick - seeking something
  - 2. Evident from all new religions (churches) started
  - 3. Denominationalism does not satisfy all
  - 4. Many do not agree with what denominations doing

### II. EVANGELISM IS NOT A "SPECIAL EVENT"

- A. We (the church in general) have fostered the idea that evangelism is some sort of special event or method
  - 1. Church growth clinics; special outreach programs; evangelism classes; personal work classes; etc
  - 2. Special literature; charts; films; equipment; etc
  - 3. All designed for special evangelistic efforts
- B. Certainly, nothing is wrong with special emphasis on evangelistic efforts, but all the "trappings" are not necessary for evangelism to be done
- C. We must learn that evangelism is a "way of life" not a special event.
- D. We must interact with people on a daily basis
  - 1. Command "go preach - teach" Matt 28:19; Mk 16:15
  - 2. We must be "salt" and "light" Matt 5:13,14
  - 3. Every member has a part Eph 4:16
- E. Every Christian needs the attitude of Peter and John as well as Paul Acts 4:19,20; 1Cor 9:16

### III. THERE ARE MANY ADVERSARIES

- A. Paul's adversaries
  - 1. Heathenism Acts 19:35
  - 2. False teachers 1Tim 1:3, 20
  - 3. Weak brethren Rev 2:4,5

### B. Our adversaries

- 1. Denominationalism 1Cor 1:10-13
  - a. Deceptive Prov 14:12
  - b. Confusing 1Cor 1:12,13
    - (1) Teach to speak same thing 1Cor 1:10; Jhn 17:21
    - (2) Denomination teach different things
  - c. Cause lost souls Matt 7:21; 2Jhn 9-11
- 2. Worldliness 1Jhn 2:15-17; 2Tim 4:10
- 3. Members lack of knowledge Heb 5:12; Hos 4:6
  - a. Caused by indifference Rev 3:16
  - b. Caused by laziness Heb 6:1, 10-12
  - c. Exhorted to obtain knowledge 2Pet 1:5; Col 1:9,10

### III. WHAT MUST WE DO WITH OUR ADVERSARIES

- A. Paul sought to remove them with the word of God Acts 19:10 (note context)
  - 1. Some were hardened and believed not
  - 2. Paul did not stop when the going got rough
  - 3. Paul did not give place Gal 2:4,5
- B. We must fight with God's sword Eph 6:17; Heb 4:12
  - 1. Put on whole armor of God Eph 6:13
  - 2. God's word is the sword of the Spirit
- C. We must FIGHT the good fight of faith 1Tim 6:12
  - 1. We are in a very real fight
  - 2. Our adversary is real (devil) 1Pet 5:8

## CONCLUSION:

- A. Paul took advantage of the opportunity offered him 1Cor 16:9 Acts 19:10
- B. Paul did not let his adversaries get the best of him Acts 19:9
- C. We have a great opportunity (great door and effectual) opportunity + ability = responsibility
- D. Let's not be dragged down by our adversaries 1Pet 5:8; 1Cor 15:58
- E. There is a door for the alien sinner Jhn 10:9
  - 1. Sinner must open the door of his heart Rev 3:20
  - 2. Jesus gave the way of entering the door Gal 3:27
- F. There is also a door by which the erring child can return Acts 8:22; 1Jhn 1:9