

2 Corinthians 2:12-13 Open doors

12 Furthermore

{This takes us back to v.1-4 Paul is responding to why had not come to see them – yet – The Lord kept him – he wasn't ready to make another painful visit.

Didn't want to be the Heavy!

12 Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened to me by the Lord,

A) Paul says this is why I delayed – God opened a door to me in Troas for the Gospel

B) God was moving so He stayed – in Troas

C) Paul was not being fickle. He was being faithful.

1) faithful to the opportunity which God gave him.

D) But Paul was having a hard time enjoying what God was doing there in Troas – 13 I had no rest in my spirit, because I did not find Titus my brother; but taking my leave of them, I departed for Macedonia.

E) His heart was heavy waiting for Titus to return with a report from Corinth

1) How they responded to his letter – he finally left to meet Titus in Macedonia

But I want you to note for a minute that Paul viewed Ministry as open doors to share the Gospel.

A) Acts 14:27 Paul shares with the church in Jerusalem how the Lord had opened the door of faith to the gentiles.

B) Paul asked the Church in Colosse “to pray that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, to the gentiles.” Colossians 4:3

My Favorite: 1 Corinthians 16:8-9

“But I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost. 9 For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.”

A) Can you hear the excitement in Paul's voice -

B) I picture Paul like a kid in the candy store – at this point – great and effective door has opened to me

1) Some translations : a wide open door –

Bb) Paul's view of ministry - open doors to partner w/ God - for the sake of sharing the gospel

C) What is really interesting is the last part of his phrase – and there are many adversaries

1) I think Paul is also excited about that – the opposition

2) Because by now in his ministry experience He has seen that greater the opposition, the greater the challenge - the greater the fruit.

G. Campbell Morgan once said: "if you have no opposition in the place where you are serving, you are serving in the wrong place."

D) When God is going to do something really great – there are huge obstacles & opposition that precede it

E) So Paul was excited: Great open door – great opposition – { This is going to be awesome!

Walking thru open doors requires:

1. **Faith** - trusting God to work
2. **Sacrifice**- gets us out of our comfort zone
3. **Flexibility**- Paul had to be willing to change his plans.
4. **Perseverance** – Continue in the face of opposition.

Jesus also used this phrase in his letter to the Church in Philadelphia Revelation 3:8

8 "I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

An open door for further ministry – that no one can shut – for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

I think the Lord would say the same thing about this church – little strength – few but strong in Jesus

Kept the word – continue honor his name

Listen there are many open doors right now before us. Some we forget about.

A) Jesus said in John 10:9 **"I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture."**

B) There is the door opened of salvation – of fellowship and relationship – with Him

1) Not a place – it is a person –

C) He is the door – the opening into the family of God – into rest into salvation, healing

D) Isaiah 53:6 **"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all."**

Today is Palm Sunday – Jesus triumphal entry 2,000 yrs ago He marched thru a door that led to the cross

A) The aroma of **death and life** was present that day.

B) **His death – secured our life!** He Died on the cross for our sins – paid the price

1) Thru His blood offer forgiveness – cleansing hope freedom –

C)As He hung on the cross – Cried out – It is finished

1)At that moment – Veil was rent /.....

D)The door to the Holy of Holies was opened –

1)Now welcome

Hebrews 4:14-16

“ Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

A)The door to the throne of God today is open to all who are in Christ – all who have need –

B)God is waiting to pour out Grace and mercy upon us as we run to Him today.

But sometimes when we are praying for God to open doors in our lives, it is because we are looking for something behind that door.

We are hoping for rest, refreshment, or answers to a problem that we think is behind that door.

That is when it hit me; the door is not a place it is a person, it is Jesus, the rest the refreshment, the salvation that we are seeking is found in Him.

He is our rest, He is our peace, He is the Good shepherd who leads us beside the still waters, who restores our souls.

So more than seeking for an open door this week, lets seek Him and allow Him to lead us into the open doors, the green pastures that He has for us.

Guys we have an open door before us to impact our community in a greater way.

A)We heard over and over again yesterday at the epicenter conf – that these are the last days

B)God is wanting us to gear up our efforts to reach lost souls and to minister to pp who are hurting and in need

C)I believe like many that there is going to be one last outpouring of God’s spirit –

1)We need to be ready to receive it – We are very limited here at this location

D)God is inviting us to take part in something more – enhance what we do – do it better

1)Prepared for further growth