

THE DAY OF OPPORTUNITY

"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." Galatians 6:10

Be "The Day of Opportunity" We mean a time or an occasion attended with propitious or favorable circumstances; a favorable or advantageous chance or opening. Concerning the "day of opportunity", I want to say two things: --

I. It Is Provided.

Life is filled with glorious possibilities and opportunities. No age has presented greater opportunities for heroic service than the one in which we live. Happy the person who has the instinct to discover, and the wisdom to take, the opportunity. It is still true that "There is a tide in the affairs of man which if taken at the flood, leads on to fortune and to fame."

1. Where?

(1) In the home.

As the twig is bent, the tree will likely grow. Religious temperature is determined by the atmosphere of home. If one's face looks like an animated vinegar cruet, and his temper suggests a daily diet of cayenne pepper and sauerkraut, that one is not apt to cause others to think more of Christ and the church. Each recurring day presents opportunities for parents to practice and to preach Christ in the home. Don't miss an opportunity to magnify Christ. Happy are the parents who can tell their children about the love of Jesus Christ.

(2) In business.

The employer should feel the responsibility for the souls of those in his employ. Christ is the only guarantee for a clean life.

(3) In society.

Let your conversation be seasoned with grace. Do not just be interested in your health, but also in your spiritual condition.

(4) In the church.

Unnumbered opportunities for God and good present themselves here. A pleasant smile, a hearty handshake, or a kind word, has often pointed the path that leads home.

2. What?

(1) Opportunity to believe something.

Believers in Christ. A disciple means one who has heard with open mind the teachings of an instructor, has given honest consideration to the merits of those teachings, and after real thought, has accepted them and proceeded to proclaim them as true. Do some thinking, reach some conclusions, and be willing to pay the price of your convictions. We need men of convictions who will be willing to stand for their convictions. Discipleship is based on thought, conviction, courage and action.

(2) Opportunity to be somebody.

Let your name become a synonym for beautiful qualities and characteristics. Let your name stand for honor, faithfulness, kindness, charitableness, and kindred things. To mention some names is to suggest admirable qualities. The names of others suggest certain sins, weaknesses and faults, e.g., Judas, Thomas, Washington, etc. So live that your name will stand for the noble and the worthwhile.

(3) Opportunity to see something.

- a. Needs.
- b. Possibilities.
- c. In life.

Environment, difficulties, handicaps, friends, enemies, sorrows, and joys.

The ability to see things determines one's usefulness and success, e.g., the junk man sees more than a livelihood in what others throw away.

(4) Opportunity to do something.

Life consists in doing rather than thinking, planning and resolving. Be a producer and not a parasite. Do something worthwhile.

- a. Opportunity to do good.
- b. Opportunity to serve.
- c. Opportunity to glorify God.

(5) Opportunity to leave something.

Deeds outlive a person. What are you leaving behind? If you are hoping to leave a fortune and you succeed, that fortune, like a shadow, will soon be dissipated. You can leave your family a heritage far more valuable than money. "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver and gold." Are you leaving a beneficent influence? Are you leaving a record that your friends will not be ashamed of, one that they will not feel that they have to justify? Think of the influence of Paul.

II. It Is Passing.

1. What some do with it.

- (1) Realize it.
- (2) Improve it.
- (3) Utilize it.

2. What others do with it.

- (1) Waste it -- Responsible for evil done.
- (2) Neglect it -- Responsible for good left undone.
- (3) Lose it -- Never have it again.

The cry "I had no chance" will not pass as a prayer for forgiveness.

Opportunity means responsibility and obligation.