

An Open Door

(Colossians 4:2-4)

Paul asked the Christians in Colosse to pray that God would open a door for him. The illustration of an open door is used several times in the New Testament. Each time it seems to represent an opportunity to teach the gospel.

The same mission to spread the gospel that was given to the disciples in the first century has been given to us today (Matthew 28:19). Just like God opened doors of opportunity for Paul, He continues to open doors in 2016. But what are we going to do when the open doors come our way? Will we seize them?

God will bless us with an open door...

I. **But we have to open our _____ hearts_____.**

- A. Thousands of people are in grave danger in Maury and Williamson County.
 - 1. They are in danger of losing their souls and being separated from God for eternity!
 - 2. What are we going to do about this danger the people around us face?
- B. Jesus has told us what to do (Mark 16:15-16).
 - 1. The early disciples set out on a rescue for lost souls (Acts 2:41, 47; 4:4; 5:14; 6:7; 8:4). They opened their hearts to the spiritual needs of others.
 - 2. We have to as well!
 - a. We must open our hearts to what God desires for all people (2 Peter 3:9).
 - b. We must open our hearts to how God made every person (Genesis 1:26).
 - c. We must open our hearts to what God wants every person to know and how Jesus died for every one (1 Timothy 2:4-6).
 - d. We must open our hearts to the mission we have been given! God doesn't want us to sit back and refuse to help those in grave spiritual danger.

II. **But we have to open our _____ eyes_____.**

- A. The apostles needed to do this when it came to the Samaritans (John 4:35).
- B. The gospel has the power to change any person (Romans 1:16).
 - 1. It changed Paul (1 Timothy 1:15; Acts 26:9-11).
 - 2. It changed the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).
 - 3. It changed those on Pentecost who killed Jesus (Acts 2:37-41).

III. **But we have to open our _____ mouths_____.**

- A. The gospel was spoken to people (Mark 16:15; Acts 8:35; John 1:46; 4:28-29).
- B. We need to be willing to talk to as many people as we can because we are looking for those few honest hearts.

IV. **But we have to open our _____ Bibles_____.**

- A. We are looking for people like the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:34-35).
- B. We are looking for people like Cornelius (Acts 11:14).
- C. We are looking for people like Lydia (Acts 16:13-15).

Conclusion: If you are not yet a Christian, the Lord is standing at the door of your _____ heart_____ and knocking (Revelation 3:20-22). Will you _____ let him in_____?