

Taking the Word through Open Doors

II Corinthians 2:12 Furthermore, when I came to Troas to *preach* Christ's gospel, and **a door was opened unto me of the Lord,** 13 I had no rest in my spirit, because I found not Titus my brother: but taking my leave of them, I went from thence into Macedonia. 14 Now thanks *be* unto God, which **always causeth us to triumph in Christ,** and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. 15 For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: 16 To the one *we are* the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And **who is sufficient for these things?** 17 For we are not as many, which **corrupt the word of God:** but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.

1. God opened a door for Paul 12 Furthermore, when I came to Troas to *preach* Christ's gospel, and **a door was opened unto me of the Lord,** 13 I had no rest in my spirit, because I found not Titus my brother: but taking my leave of them, I went from thence into Macedonia.

a. Actually things had looked very bleak for Paul **1:8** For we would not, brethren, have you **ignorant of our trouble** which came to us in Asia, that we were **pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life:** **9** But we had the **sentence of death** in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: **10** Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver *us*; **11** Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift *bestowed* upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf.

- i. Even the people of Corinth were challenging and pressuring him about why he didn't do what he said he would do
- ii. Circumstances were out of his control
- iii. There were problems at the church in Corinth
- iv. Now he can't find Titus to get an update **13** I had no rest in my spirit, because I found not Titus my brother: but taking my leave of them, I went from thence into Macedonia.

- b. It is God that opens doors for us to preach, people to really listen and be saved
- i. We can never forget that all of our work is a God work. He convicts, He draws, He saves **Acts 14:27** **And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles.**
- ii. Open doors means opportunity but it does not indicate obstacle free **I Corinthians 16:8** **But I will tarry at Ephesus until Pentecost. 9 For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries.**
- iii. We should pray that God will open doors **Colossians 4:2** **Continue in prayer,** and watch in the same with thanksgiving; **3 Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance,** to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:
- c. It should be our prayer to recognize God's open doors more than the obstacles that stand in the way
- d. We should learn to trust God in tough times as we look for and anticipate what God is going to do and the doors

He will open

2. Paul always had victory no matter the circumstances 14

Now thanks *be* unto God, which **always causeth us to triumph in Christ**, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. 15 For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: 16 To the one *we are* the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And **who is sufficient for these things?**

- a. It is impossible for the victor not to have victory. We are in Christ
- b. All of His promises are yea and amen 1:20 For all the promises of God in him *are yea*, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.
- c. We are more than conquerors Romans 8:37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.
- d. There is victory in Jesus and the victory for Paul is found in Christ I Corinthians 15:57 But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast,

unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. [John 16:33](#) These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

- e. Paul's real audience is Jesus. Whether people get saved or not Paul is preaching for Jesus, an audience of one [15](#) **For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish:**
 - i. It should be our goal to please God [Galatians 1:10](#) **For do I now persuade men, or God? or **do I seek to please men?**** for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.
 - ii. Find out what is pleasing to the Lord [Ephesians 5:10](#) **Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. 11** And have **no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness,** but rather reprove *them*. [12](#) For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.
 - iii. We are to walk worthy [Colossians 1:10](#) **That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing,** being

fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

iv. Not seeking to please men but God **I Thessalonians 2:4**

But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; **not as pleasing men, but God**, which trieth our hearts.

v. Walk to please God **I Thessalonians 4:1** Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort *you* by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us **how ye ought to walk and to please God**, so ye would abound more and more.

f. To the individual it is different result but with Christ, Paul is doing what Jesus wants him to do! **16** *To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And **who is sufficient for these things?***

g. Paul knew that he was not sufficient for the ministry that God had given him. **16** *To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And **who is sufficient for these things?** **3:5** Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of*

ourselves; but **our sufficiency is of God;**

3. Paul used the Word of God sincerely **17 For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God:** but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.

a. Paul knew that he was unable to do the work of God. He was not sufficient for the job ahead

i. It was the grace of God working in him

I Corinthians 15:10 But by **the grace of God** I am what I am: and his grace which *was bestowed* upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but **the grace of God** which was with me.

ii. It was the power of God in him **Colossians 1:29**

Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

iii. He knew that his ministry was based on the effectual working of the Holy Spirit **Ephesians 3:7** *Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.*

b. Paul did not corrupt the Word of God

- i. The word corrupt has the idea of using the Word of God like a con artist
- ii. Paul spoke sincerely
- c. Paul's ministry was not based on his oratory

I Corinthians 2:1 And I, brethren, when I came to you, came **not with excellency of speech or of wisdom,** declaring unto you the testimony of God. **2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.** **3** And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. **4** And my speech and **my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:** **5** That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

- d. Paul simply lifted up Jesus crucified. You could accept or reject but he told the truth
- e. Paul did not change the Bible or truth to get a crowd or following.
- f. Paul simply spoke the truth found in God's Holy Word