



Get Out... Because God Is Opening Doors

Get Out #4

Allan Hamblin – June 12, 2016

Open Doors in Acts

“On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how **he had opened a door of faith** to the Gentiles.”

Acts 14:27 (NIV)

“Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, **having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia.** ⁷ When they came to the border of Mysia, **they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to.** ⁸ So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. ⁹ During the **night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.”** ¹⁰ After Paul had seen the vision, **we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.**”

Acts 16:6-10 (NIV)

Paul talked about those open doors

“But I will stay on at Ephesus until Pentecost, ⁹ because **a great door for effective work has opened to me**, and there are many who oppose me.”

1Cor. 16:8-9 (NIV)

“Now when **I went to Troas to preach the gospel** of Christ and found that **the Lord had opened a door for me...**”

2Cor. 2:12 (NIV)

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. ³ **And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message**, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. ⁴ **Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.**”

Col. 4:2-4 (NIV)

- Paul was looking for an opportunity to work.
- Paul didn't want to waste an open door.

I won't waste an open door if...

1. I am eager to do good.

“..., Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and **to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.**”

Titus 2:13b-14 (NIV)

2. I am wise enough to be winsome.

A Simple definition of Winsome: Cheerful, Pleasant, & Appealing

“**Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.** ⁶ **Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.**”

Col. 4:5-6 (NIV)

- 1Cor. 10:32-33 “**Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God—even as I try to please everyone in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.**”

3. I respect that opportunities don't last forever.

“Be very careful, then, how you live—**not as unwise but as wise,** ¹⁶ **making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.** ¹⁷ **Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.**”

Eph. 5:15-17 (NIV)

A Tale of Two Churches:

Rev. 3:1-13

Sardis - Philadelphia

Your choices will influence which one Greater Alton Church is more like.