

FYI

Prayer workshop: Monday, August 1 at church building 7:00 p.m.

Evangelism class: Friday, August 12 at 7:00 p.m. at McKnight home.

Business meeting: Sunday, August 14 at 4:30 p.m.

Read through the Bible in 2016!

(Submitted by Mike McKnight)

Suggested chapters to read so that we might read through the entire Bible during 2016! **This week's "schedule":**

- **Day 207** - Isaiah 40-43 Monday
- **Day 208** - Isaiah 44-48 Tuesday
- **Day 209** - 2 Kings 18:9-37; 2 Kings 19:1-37; Psalm 46, 80, 135 Wednesday
- **Day 210** - Isaiah 49-53 Thursday
- **Day 211** - Isaiah 54-58 Friday
- **Day 212** - Isaiah 59-63 Saturday
- **Day 213** - Isaiah 64-66 Sunday

August Birthdays

4 Noah Perales 6 Gigi Zamarripa 12 Debbie Hoffman
16 Nick Hoffman 19 Keith Lovelady 25 Pat Limburg

August Anniversary

2 Buddy & Dolly Cashion 12 Barrett & Rhea Hoffman

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
Mike McKnight

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Evangelism...(part 3)

This is a continuation of an article, we started recently, by Allen Webster...some scriptures referenced have been written out so we don't have to look them up...and "you" has been changed to "we" in parts of the article.

Seizing Opportunities to Shine the Light to Strangers

OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunity is a wonderful word. Paul used it: "*As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men*" (Galatians 6:10). When we are constantly looking for opportunities to share the good news, we find potential prospects all around. Paul saw the Lord's hand in opening doors for evangelism: "*For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries*" (1 Corinthians 16:9); "*Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened unto me of the Lord*" (2 Corinthians 2:12); "*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*" (Colossians 4:3).

Opportunities must be seized because time is limited: "*Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest*" (Ecclesiastes 9:10). We must work while it is day for "*the night cometh when no man can work*" (John 9:4). We must redeem the time (Ephesians 5:16; Colossians 4:5). We must be "*zealous of good works*" (Titus 2:14). "*So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you*" (Romans 1:15).

Sometimes we lack opportunity, as the Philippians did who wanted to assist Paul (Philippians 4:10). Yet we may be able to increase our opportunities with thought and planning. Milton Berle said, “If opportunity doesn’t knock, build a door.” Like the friends of the crippled man (Mark 2:4), evangelistic Christians find a way to get the gospel into difficult places. *“If there be first a willing mind”* (2 Corinthians 8:12; cf. 2 Corinthians 8:3; 1 Chronicles 28:2; Psalm 110:3), then amazing things can happen. The devil cannot keep the gospel from the lost—when we are willing to fight him... *“You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.”* (1 John 4:4).

The average person who lives to be seventy years old spends his time in the following fashion (cf. Ephesians 5:16 *“making the most of your time, because the days are evil”*):

- 23 years sleeping;
- 19 years working;
- 9 years playing;
- 6 years traveling;
- 4 years unaccounted;
- 2 years dressing; and
- 1 year in church activities.

Church activities—including winning souls—is the only thing that will last. “Lord, lead me to some soul today.” When this world’s houses, cathedrals, monuments, businesses, and stadiums have crumbled down, been burned to ashes, or been destroyed in storms, the souls we lead to Christ will be as valuable as ever.

Continued next week...

How Can We Be More Effective in Evangelism?

(Internet article posted in Sam Willcut)

Why do we often fail in evangelism? Reasons could include fear of embarrassment (as opposed to shame of Christ) and fear of resentment, rejection and controversy. In addition, we very often

assume that people will not be interested before we even ask—by so doing, we overlook some who may be interested that we misjudge.

Finally, we as Christians need to convince ourselves in the power of the gospel and the condition of lost souls. What are some practical ways of being more effective in evangelism? First, we need to find a method that suits our talent. According to Jesus, we all have at least one talent (Matt. 25:14-30). I know that the word “talent” indicates a financial term, but the Bible is clear that God has given us all abilities (at least one ability) to carry out the mission of the church—to preach and teach the gospel to those who are lost (Luke 19:10; Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:15). Therefore, we must begin by searching inwardly to see what abilities we have that match well with evangelism. If we are outgoing individuals, then conducting Bible studies will not be difficult. If we are shy, then we may want to become involved in things such as distributing and grading Bible correspondence courses, distributing tracts and such like that involve less personal contact. If we love to be sociable, then we may use our abilities of hospitality to focus on evangelistic efforts. Whatever ability we may have, we need to get busy and use it for evangelistic causes!

Second, we need to revive our enthusiasm for Christianity. The psalmist declared it best: *“Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee”* (Ps. 51:12-13). We need to radiate with a joy of salvation! When people in the world who are facing problems of every nature see the true joy and contentment of the Christian life, they will want to know what makes the difference!

Finally, we need to demonstrate Christianity at its finest! The apostle Peter makes a powerful statement concerning the non-Christian husbands of Christian wives: *“... they may without the word be gained by the behavior of their wives”* (1 Pet. 3:1 ASV). Evangelism can take place by simply demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit (cf. Gal. 5:22-23). This will take an exhibition of the change that God has made in our lives (Rom. 12:1-2). I hope that these practical points will help all of us to become more evangelistic, and may God bless our efforts to sow the seed of the kingdom!