

Seize the Day... for Christ!

1 Corinthians 16:5-9

Pastor Jason Dennett's Notes

NKJV - *"Now I will come to you when I pass through Macedonia (for I am passing through Macedonia). 6 And it may be that I will remain, or even spend the winter with you, that you may send me on my journey, wherever I go. 7 For I do not wish to see you now on the way; but I hope to stay a while with you, if the Lord permits. 8 But I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost. 9 For a great and effective door has opened to me, and [there are] many adversaries."*

NVI - *"Después de pasar por Macedonia, pues tengo que atravesar esa región, iré a verlos. 6 Es posible que me quede con ustedes algún tiempo, y tal vez pase allí el invierno, para que me ayuden a seguir el viaje a dondequiera que vaya. 7 Esta vez no quiero verlos sólo de paso; más bien, espero permanecer algún tiempo con ustedes, si el Señor así lo permite. 8 Pero me quedaré en Éfeso hasta Pentecostés, 9 porque se me ha presentado una gran oportunidad para un trabajo eficaz, a pesar de que hay muchos en mi contra."*

NLT - *"I am coming to visit you after I have been to Macedonia, for I am planning to travel through Macedonia. 6 Perhaps I will stay awhile with you, possibly all winter, and then you can send me on my way to my next destination. 7 This time I don't want to make just a short visit and then go right on. I want to come and stay awhile, if the Lord will let me. 8 In the meantime, I will be staying here at Ephesus until the Festival of Pentecost. 9 There is a wide-open door for a great work here, although many oppose me."*

We learn 3 lessons in managing our

OPPORTUNITIES from the Lord:

- Like Paul, we should be **PLANNED!** (v.5)

- Like Paul, we should be ***PLIABLE!*** (v.6-7)
- Like Paul, we should be ***PASSIONATE!*** (v.8-9)

#1 - Like Paul, we should be *PLANNED!*** (v.5)**

"Now I will come to you when I pass through Macedonia (for I am passing through Macedonia).

- There's a necessity of **PLANNING** to be successful with opportunities in life.

Prov 29:18 KJV - "Where there is no vision, the people perish.."

Pro 24:6 NKJV - "For by wise counsel you will wage your own war, And in a multitude of counselors there is safety."

Eph 1:9-10 NLT - "God has now revealed to us his mysterious plan regarding Christ, a plan to fulfill his own good pleasure. 10 And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ-everything in heaven and on earth.

"If you fail to PLAN, then you plan to FAIL!" - Benjamin Franklin

"Without Goals and a Plan to reach them, you're like a ship that has set sail with no Destination!" - Fitzhugh Dodson

"Proper Planning and Preparation Prevents Poor Performance!" - Stephen Keague

"A Goal without a Plan is an empty wish." - Anonymous

"Plan your next move, because every step brings you closer to your Goal!" - S. Ratnakar

"The Reason most people never reach their goals is that they don't have define them. True Leaders can tell you WHERE they are going, WHAT they plan to do along the way, and WHO will be sharing the adventure with them!" - Denis Waitley

- God is looking for people of **ACTION** and **INITIATIVE!**

The "Will of God" is found by being **ACTIVE** and **IN MOTION**...not lazy and sedentary!

"Failure occurs because of 2 reasons: 1. Doing things without planning them. 2. Planning them without doing them!"

Rom 12:1,2 NLT - "And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead

with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice--the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. 2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."

*#1 - **Realize** God's Goodness to you. (active!)*

*#2 - **Release** your life to God again. (active!)*

*#3 - **Resist** temptations and sin. (active!)*

*#4 - **Renew** your mind in God's Word. (active!)*

#2 - Like Paul, we should be **PLIABLE!** (v.6-7)

"And it may be that I will remain, or even spend the winter with you, that you may send me on my journey, wherever I go. For I do not wish to see you now on the way; but I hope to stay a while with you, if the Lord permits."

- *"GOD, the **Great Author of Life**, has "**editing rights**" over your life!!"*
- In our planning, we should remain **PLIABLE** and **FLEXIBLE** to how the Lord may change our plans!
 - "Be stubborn about your **GOALS**, but **FLEXIBLE** about your methods."*
 - "Blessed are the **FLEXIBLE**, for they shall not be broken!" - **Calvary 1:1***
 - "The really happy man is the one who can enjoy the scenery when God takes him on a detour." - **Gary Stanley***
 - "It's possible that what we see as an 'inconvenient interruption' is a divine appointment." - **John Ortberg***
 - "Man's **REJECTION** is often God's **PROTECTION** or God's **DIRECTION**." - **Anonymous***
- We see this truth in operation in Paul's **TRAVEL** plans; Paul's **LIFE** plans; **YOUR** life plans?!?
 - **James 4:13-16 NLT** - *"Look here, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit." How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog--it's here a little*

while, then it's gone. What you ought to say is, "If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that." Otherwise you are boasting about your own plans, and all such boasting is evil."

- **Rev 4:1-2 NLT** - *Then as I looked, I saw a door standing open in heaven, and the same voice I had heard before spoke to me like a trumpet blast. The voice said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after this." And instantly I was in the Spirit, and I saw a **Throne** in heaven and Someone sitting on it.*
- **Isa 6:1 NKJV** - *"In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a **Throne**, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple."*
- **Prov 16:9 NKJV** - *"A man's heart plans his way, But the **LORD directs** his steps."*

#3 - Like Paul, we should be **PASSIONATE!** (v.8-9)

"But I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost. For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries."

- Paul had an incredible **PASSION** to travel **SERVE** his Lord, and to **EXPAND** the Kingdom of Christ!

Paul was as careful in his use of time as he was in his use of money. It's obvious in all the cities he traveled through...such as Ephesus!

"Killing time is the chief occupation of modern society, but no Christian can afford to kill time or waste opportunities." - Warren Wiersbe

Eph 5:15-16 NLT - *"So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. **Make the most of every opportunity** in these evil days." ("**Redeem the time..**" - NKJV)*

*"Do it with **PASSION** or not at all!" - Anonymous*

*"The only way to do great work is to **LOVE** what you do." - Steve Jobs*

"Passion is the Genesis of genius." - Galileo Galilei

*"The things you are **PASSIONATE** about are not random, they could be your calling." - F. Fredrickson*

*"We all know fear. But **PASSION** makes us fearless!" - Paulo*

Coelho

- He was excited to see the Lord opening up a "**great and effective door**" of ministry in Ephesus:
- **Act 19:8-10 NKJV** - *"And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God. But when some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them and withdrew the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus. And this continued for two years, so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks."*
- **Rev 3:7-8 NLT** - *"Write this letter to the angel of the church in Philadelphia. This is the message from the One who is Holy and True, the One who has the key of David. **What He opens, no one can close**; and what He closes, no one can open: "I know all the things you do, and **I have opened a door for you that no one can close**. You have little strength, yet you obeyed My word and did not deny Me."*
- What are **YOU** passionate about? What gets **YOU** excited and fired up in life?

Things you are **passionate** about, you **talk** about...sports, love, gadgets, ...Jesus?!?

*"A man can be **PASSIONATE** about anything else, but the moment a little fire gets into the Church, people say, "Ah, enthusiasm, passion, false excitement - I'm afraid of that!"*

- DL Moody

Do you like **TOBASCO and **HOT SAUCE** in your food??** -

*Jesus does too! He loves fiery Christians, passionate in their pursuit of Him. He wants a little "spiritual hot sauce" on your relationship with Him! He's not satisfied with the bland and basic Christian life. He want you to pursue Him passionately, fiercely, with intensely, with fire in your heart! Be a **TOBASCO** Christian... not a **TOFU** Christian!*

1 Sam 13:14 NKJV - *"The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be commander over His people.."*

Matt 11:12 NKJV - *"..the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force."*

- What do give you **TIME**, **TALENTS**, and **TREASURE** to in your life?

"God, I pray, light these idle sticks of my life that I may burn for You. Consume my life, my God, it is Yours. I don't seek a long life, but a full one, like you, Lord Jesus..Father, let me be weak that I might loose my clutch on everything temporal. My life, my reputation, my possessions, Lord, let me loose the tension of the grasping hand...Father, take my life! I will not save it, for it is not mine to save. Have it Lord, have it all...He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." - In the 1950's Jim Elliot and his team went to preach the gospel to a small tribe in the jungles of Ecuador. In 1956, they were mercilessly speared to death by men that they had served and loved.

- He wasn't surprised by **OPPOSITION** or intimidated by **OBSTACLES** in serving the Lord!

*In Ephesus, because the Lord moved through Paul in such a might way, **satan opposed him greatly**: Demetrius and the Riot of the Silver-smiths of the goddess Diana tried to kill Paul and his team! (Acts 19:21-41)*

*Paul was a **SERIOUS THREAT** to the Kingdom of Darkness!!*

*- **"..the evil spirit replied, "I know Jesus, and I know Paul, but who are you?"** - Acts 19:15)*

*Are **YOU** a threat to satan's kingdom?!? Am **I**?!? Are **WE** as a church family?!?*

- *"There are 3 kinds of Christians: 1. Those who **MAKE** things happen 2. Those who **WATCH** things happen 3. Those who **WONDER** what happened." (Which kind are **YOU??**)*

*"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil, is for good men to standby...and **do nothing**." - Edmund Burke*