

Bible Study - Making the Most of Every Opportunity

Bible Reading Colossians 3:18-4:6

Opportunity Knocks is the theme for 2008/9, taken from Col 4:5. The context is about being wise in the way we act towards "outsiders". It is an interesting observation that for those of us "in" the church there will always be those who are "outsiders". They may be family members, neighbours, work colleagues, people in the local shop - even the hairdresser! It is easy to think that other people have many opportunities to witness to their faith but somehow we don't. In this Bible Study, Let us think about the many ordinary situations we face day in, day out which are in fact opportunities for us.

As we go on in our lives as Christians we can feel frustrated at how slowly we seem able to change. Let's pray that together we can encourage each other to have the attitude that makes the most of every opportunity.

1. Read Col 4:2 and compare it with Psalm 5:3. How can we devote ourselves to prayer? Does the Psalmist help us? What sort of requests should we lay before God in the morning?
2. In what ways does laying our requests before God in the morning help us to make the most of every opportunity?
3. Read Col 3:12-17 and 4:6. What are the attitudes we should be seeking to develop? How can we go about developing them?
4. What will be the effect on the people we meet day by day if we have those attitudes? What will be the effect on ourselves?

5. If we have a problem with being patient, humble, compassionate, forgiving etc how can we improve? Do we just give up and say, "It's the way I'm made" or is there action we can take? Have you discovered Bible verses that can help or verses we can use with God in prayer? How could Isaiah 40:27-31 help? Or Romans 6:6&11?

6. As time passes by do we ever consider how we will react to infirmity, being housebound etc? How often do we pray about that?

7. In the case of illness - either our own or that of a loved one - how will I react to that? Do we see it as an opportunity to "let our conversation be always full of grace?"

8. What about tradesmen whose services you need? How do you treat them when they come into your home? What sort of thing should you pray about in that situation? Do you think you should trust God to send you a good worker? Are you then willing to pay his fee without grudging it? See Lev 19:13. Could you pray that every person who comes into your home will feel welcome and will feel that you can be trusted? What else should you pray?

9. What about neighbours, work colleagues or those who irritate you? Do you just grumble about them or do you talk to God about them?

10. In the light of the Bible reading what changes could you make so as to make the most of every opportunity (Col 4:5)?