

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

Volume 9

November 8, 2020

Number 45

AN OPEN DOOR

John Edwards

God said, *“I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door...”* (Rev. 3:8). The word “door” means opportunity. Let’s notice some open doors in the Bible.

DOOR OF FAITH. Acts 14:27 records, *“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.”* The “door of faith”, opened unto the Gentiles, was the opportunity granted them to hear the gospel and believe.

DOOR OF UTTERANCE. Paul wrote, *“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 in bonds: That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak”* (Col. 4:3-4). Paul exhorted the Colossians to pray that God would create the opportunity to preach the gospel. A “door of utterance” was opened unto Paul at Troas. Paul stated, *“Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ’s gospel, and a door was opened unto me of the Lord”* (2 Cor. 2:12).

DOOR GREAT AND EFFECTUAL. Paul announced,

“For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries” (1 Cor. 16:9). There existed in Ephesus an unusual opportunity for the gospel. Paul took advantage of the opportunity, and all Asia heard the word of the Lord.

When God sets before us an open door, let’s take advantage of the opportunity!

WHAT JOHN SAID ABOUT LOVE

John Edwards

The apostle John is sometimes referred to as “the apostle of love” because he said so much about love. Here we call attention to some things John said about love:

LOVE IS A COMMANDMENT. *“And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also”* (1 Jn. 4:21). Further, *“...love one another, as he gave us commandment”* (1 Jn. 3:23). Blessed are those who do His commandments (Rev. 22:14).

LOVE IS OF GOD. God is love (1 Jn. 4:8, 16). *“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God...”* (1 Jn. 3:1). God’s love

prompted Him to send His only begotten Son (1 Jn. 4:9).

LOVE YOUR BROTHER. One cannot sincerely love God without loving his brother (1 Jn. 4:20-21). *“He that loveth his brother abideth in the light...”* (1 Jn. 2:10). Also, *“...He that loveth not his brother abideth in death”* (1 Jn. 3:14).

LOVE ONE ANOTHER. *“Beloved, let us love one another...”* (1 Jn. 4:7). God’s love is perfected in us when we love one another (1 Jn. 4:12).

LOVE GOD. John announced, *“We love him, because he first loved us...”* (1 Jn. 4:19). 1 John 5:2-3 records, *“By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”* True love for God requires that we obey God!

LOVE CHRIST. *“Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him”* (1 Jn. 5:1). Jesus is the only begotten of the Father (Jn. 3:16). Loving the Father necessitates loving His Son, Jesus Christ.

LOVE CASTETH OUT

FEAR. *“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love”* (1 Jn. 4:18). Love will make our minds calm in view of the events which are to come.

LOVE NOT THE WORLD. 1 John 2:15 says, *“Love not the world...If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”* A love for the cosmos of evil is misplaced affection.

LOVE IN DEED AND IN TRUTH. John stated, *“...let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth”* (1 Jn. 3:18). If you genuinely love God and others, demonstrate your love!

That John said so much about love reveals its importance.

**“I WILL...
BEFORE I DIE”**

John Edwards

When Jacob was assured that his son, Joseph, was alive

and well, he said, *“...I will go and see him before I die”* (Gen. 45:28). There are some valuable lessons to be learned from this statement:

MAN WILL DIE. The Scriptures teach, *“...it is appointed unto men once to die...”* (Heb. 9:27). As those before us, we will go *“the way of all the earth”* (Josh. 23:14). Paul told the Corinthians, *“For as in Adam all die...”* (1 Cor. 15:22). Solomon wrote, *“For the living know that they shall die...”* (Eccl. 9:5).

MAN PLANS TO DO THINGS BEFORE HE DIES. Jacob planned to see his son, before he died. James spoke of those who said, *“To do or to morrow we will...”* do this and that (Jas. 4:14). What do you plan to do? It is written, *“Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour; that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away”* (Jas. 4:14). Our plans must be made in accordance with the Lord’s will (Jas. 4:15). None of us have a lease on life! *“Boast not thyself of tomorrow: for thou knowest not what a day*

may bring forth” (Prov. 27:1).

MAN MUST DO WHAT HE PLANS BEFORE DEATH COMES. *“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, wither thou goest”* (Eccl. 9:10). Many never perform their plans, putting them off “till tomorrow” or “some day” and end up taking them to the grave! The Bible places emphasis on doing the will of God, NOW. Paul said, *“...behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation”* (2 Cor. 6:2). The Hebrew writer penned, *“To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts”* (Heb. 4:7). The rich man of Luke 16 wanted to go to heaven, but didn’t make the proper preparation before he died. He wanted to become a soul winner, but waited too late. Don’t let life’s opportunities pass you by!

Jacob, who said, *“I will... before I die”*, did what he planned to do before death. He saw Joseph (Gen. 46:30). Will you do what you need to do before death comes?

The Terre Haute **SPEAKER** is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

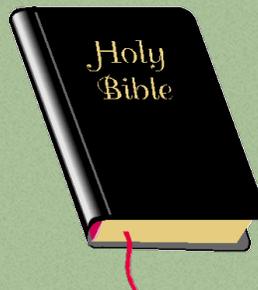
Assembling At:

4017 E Margaret DR
Terre Haute, IN 47803
[Exit 11 (I-70) W on HWY 46,
W on Margaret DR approx. 1 mile]

Assembling Times:

Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

Come be with us!



We Speak Where the Bible Speaks.

We Are Silent Where the Bible Is Silent.

We Do Bible Things in Bible Ways.

www.churchofchristatterrehaute.com

