



The Open Door in Troas

“Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened to me by the Lord, I had no rest in my spirit, because I did not find Titus my brother; but taking my leave of them, I departed for Macedonia” (2Cor. 2:12-13)

The Open Door in Troas

- Acts 16:6-12 - From Troas, the Gospel enters Europe, the first European church is Philippi, and the first European converts are the woman Lydia, the jailor and their families.
- 2Cor. 2:12-14 - In Troas, Paul receives instructions to carry the Gospel to Europe, the origin of most of our ancestors.
- Acts 20:5-12 - Troas is the city where authority for weekly observance of the Lord's Supper is outlined, and the place where young Eutychus was raised from the dead by the apostle Paul.

Troas Background

- Alexandria Troas, also called Sigeia, is near modern day Dalyan, Çanakkale Province, Turkey. The remnants of the ancient city occupy about 990 acres with only a few structures remaining today: a ruined public bath, a theatre, a gymnasium complex, an aqueduct built by Trajan, and chariot racing stadium. The old walls had a circumference of about 6.25 miles, and were fortified with towers.
- It was the chief port of north-west Asia Minor with two enormous harbors, and it prospered in Roman times, becoming a free and autonomous city. In its heyday the city may have had a population of about 100,000. Constantine considered making Troas the capital of the Roman Empire.

Closed Doors

- We can make plans, but ultimately God is the one who closes certain doors and opens other doors of opportunity.
 - 1Cor. 3:5-7 - “Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. 7 So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.”
- The power is in the Gospel and the power behind the Gospel is God; we are merely the vessels that carry it from place to place.

Closed Doors

- Learn to accept the fact that some doors are closed, and that is God's will
 - Acts 16:6-7 - “Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. 7 After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them.”

Closed Doors

- God's will trumps our reasoning and wishes
 - James 4:13-15 - "Come now, you who say, Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit; 14 whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. 15 Instead you ought to say, If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that."

Closed Doors

- Prov. 19:21 - “There are many plans in a man's heart, Nevertheless the LORD'S counsel-that will stand.”
- Prov. 16:9 - “A man's heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps.”
- Lam. 3:37 - “Who is he who speaks and it comes to pass, When the Lord has not commanded it?”

Closed Doors

- Paul learned the lesson
 - Acts 18:21 - “But took leave of them, saying, I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem; but I will return again to you, God willing. And he sailed from Ephesus.”
 - Rom. 1:10 - “Making request if, by some means, now at last I may find a way in the will of God to come to you.”

Closed Doors

- “How the Holy Spirit did his preventive work on these two occasions we can only guess. It may have been through giving (them) a strong, united inward (directive), or through some outward circumstance like illness, Jewish opposition or a legal ban, or through the utterance of a prophet...” (Stott)
- “At the time, Paul probably had no idea of the greatness of God’s purpose. God wanted to give him a continent for Jesus, and to give all of us the man whom God would use to write more of the New Testament than anyone else. God knows what He is doing when he says, ‘No.’” (Guzik)

Open Doors

- Acts 16:8-12 - “So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. 9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, Come over to Macedonia and help us. 10 Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them. 11 Therefore, sailing from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and the next day came to Neapolis, 12 and from there to Philippi, which is the foremost city of that part of Macedonia, a colony. And we were staying in that city for some days.”

Open Doors

- How can we know that a door is open?
 - Acts 16:10 “...immediately we sought to go into Macedonia concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.”
- We need to put aside what we want to do, where we want to go, and who we want to teach, and instead look for where we can go, who we can teach, and what God would have us do.

Closed And Open Hearts

- The door will be open where there are people who need the Gospel
- It is either a city where no one is interested in the Gospel, or a place that is looking for the Gospel. You cannot know which until you go there and try.

Closed And Open Hearts

- The door will be open where there are people who are already religious
- Paul's first contacts were Jewish women in prayer service
 - Acts 16:13 - "And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there."
- God opens hearts
 - Acts 16:14 - "Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul."

Closed And Open Hearts

- The door will be opened by a life change or great crisis
- Paul taught the Gospel to the unlikeliest of prospects: a pagan prison warden about to commit suicide
 - Acts 16:25-34

The Open Door in Troas

- “Often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one that has been opened for us.”
(Helen Keller)
- God wants souls to be saved; He wants us to be the means by which they hear of salvation; He knows the best time for us to reach them.
- Let Him be the keeper of the doors; we just need to be looking for the doors He has opened and be ready at any moment to walk through.

The Open Door in Troas

- 2Cor. 4:6 - “For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”
- 2Thes. 2:13-14 - “But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, 14 to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”