

Upright Woman



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Opportunities

by Teresa Beckmeyer



Teresa Beckmeyer is the Executive Director of the Texas House Freedom Caucus. She also worked in the Texas legislature on several conservative issues including our freedom of religion. She and her husband live in Loraine, TX and have 3 grown children. She attends the Westbrook church of Christ in Westbrook, TX.

As we interact with people, it is important to look for opportunities to lead others to Christ. Opportunities may arise very quickly or develop over several weeks. They might arise in ways that are familiar or could be unexpected. Opportunities to teach the lost are many and if we train ourselves to recognize them, they will lead to a bountiful harvest in the Lord's church.

Through my work in politics, I have encountered many who claim to be religious and over the past several months, I have noticed a change in what they are saying regarding religion. Many are complaining about the progressive nature of their worship services. Many are upset because denominations are not preaching God's word. Many long for the worship of their youth when things were simpler. Opportunity comes from other's discontentment.

While working at the State Capitol with the Texas House Freedom Caucus, a denominational group was urging legislators to abolish the horrible practice of abortion. A man with tattoos that covered his bald head and all exposed parts of his body was with this particular group. He had implants on his head that gave him a reptilian look. As I viewed him from a distance, with some fear due to his appearance, I thought to myself, would I have the courage to share the gospel with someone that looks so hideous? I remembered the words of Jesus in II Peter 3:9, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." Opportunity comes through having courage to share the gospel with all people.

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Over the last few months, I have had the opportunity to be a part of several spontaneous discussions about the doctrine of the church, which included 7-10 young adults. These discussions have made me realize that many have a desire to know the truth and are struggling to find it. We find in I Peter 3:15, "...and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." Opportunity comes from knowing the scriptures in order to have answers people are seeking.

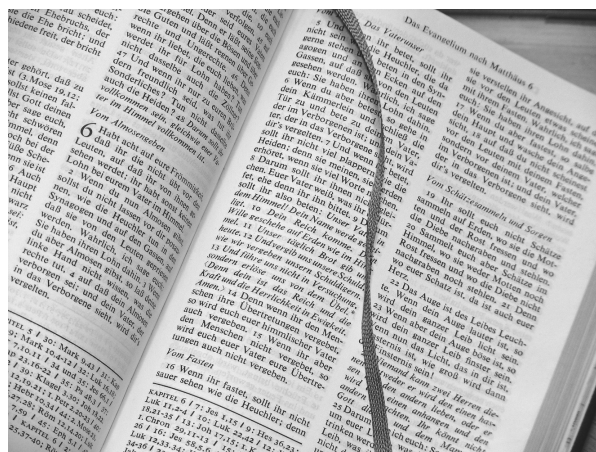
As our culture becomes more sinful, it becomes hard not to look at the lost with an uncomfortable eye due to their actions and cast judgment upon them, deeming them unworthy. It would be wise to note that the biggest problem they face is that they are not saved. When Jesus spoke to the woman at the well in John 4:6-19, he spoke to her about what would make her whole thus causing her to become a believer. Opportunity comes through those who seem unworthy by earthly standards.

John 4:35 reads, "Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." An abundant harvest is within our grasp if we recognize and take advantage of the many opportunities that are placed before us.

God's Power to Save

by Lisa Kennedy

In Romans 3:23, the inspired apostle writes that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." As Christians, we understand that we have sinned, have become separated from God in that sin (Isaiah 59:1-2), and therefore, need salvation (Romans 7:24). We have earned spiritual death because of our sin, but God's gift to us is eternal life (Romans 6:23). Knowing that we deserve death, could we become skeptical of our salvation? How can we be assured of God's gift and power to save us?



According to Romans 1:16-17, the Gospel of Christ is the power of God to salvation. An examination of the Gospel (Romans 1:1-4; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4) shows why Christians can be confident in God's power to save.

1. The Gospel was predetermined and planned by God (2 Timothy 1:8-10; Revelation 13:8). God's preparation of a way for man to be saved before salvation was ever needed by man shows God's omniscience, love, and power.
2. The Gospel was promised through the prophets of God (Romans 1:2-3; 1 Corinthians 15:2-4). And, these prophecies were fulfilled through Christ (Luke 24:25-27). God's giving and fulfillment of these promises testifies to His power to save because He has also promised us salvation (1 Peter 1:10-12).
3. The Gospel was preformed through the perfect Man who was also God (John 1:1, 14; Hebrews 4:15; Philippians 2:5-11). God's sending His only Son to be the ultimate Sacrifice shows God's power to save because He gave us access to exactly what we needed for salvation: Christ's blood (Hebrews 9:22; Hebrews 10:4; Romans 5:6-11).
4. The Gospel was proclaimed through Christ's resurrection (Romans 1:3; Romans 4:24-25). Christ's resurrection conquered death demonstrating for all time God's power.

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Christians can have assurance about God's power to save because that same power raised Christ from the tomb (1 Corinthians 15:50-57; Colossians 2:12; Romans 6:5).

5. The Gospel was pronounced through God's Word (Ephesians 1:13). God's working in men to bring about the Holy Scriptures which profess the Gospel gives us all the knowledge required to hear and obey Him (Luke 10:16; 2 Peter 1:3; 2 Timothy 3:15-17). It is this written word that gives us assurance of salvation (1 John 5:13). Since God's power is in His Word (Luke 8:11), we can be confident that even human messengers can communicate its saving power (1 Corinthians 3:1-6).

Understanding the Gospel should strengthen our confidence in God's power to save. God's preparation and promises, Christ's life and death, Christ's resurrection, and the Spirit's revelation of all of these things to us through His Word clearly establish God's power to save man. This confidence in the person and power of God should equip us to live our lives knowing that we are alive not dead, saved not lost, seeing not blind, and assured not skeptical.

This Little Light of Mine

by Laura Owens

"This Little Light of Mine"... Most of us grew up singing this song in Bible class and at VBS. As a young child, it seemed that the hand motions were the most important part of the song, however, as we matured and learned more about what being a Christian example meant, the words of this song became the focus. We are to be a light in this sinful, hurting, and lost world.

Christ gave us so many examples of how to be that light. Much of His time on Earth was spent teaching and ministering to those who were hurting and lost. He brought a message of hope, love, and salvation. He welcomed the downtrodden, spent time with the lonely, and he even ate with sinners. In Luke 15, many of the religious elite complained about Jesus spending time with sinners. Jesus answered this complaining with three parables. All three parables, found in Luke 15, highlight the rejoicing that happens when something precious that was lost is found.

As Christians, we are to follow Christ's example. To be a light in this world, we have to go out into the world. We have to develop relationships with those who do not know of Jesus' love. You know, that next door neighbor who is facing a layoff at work, that coworker who is living with her boyfriend, that cashier who seems sad all the time, the people we see all around us every day. These are the people who need Christ's love and hope, and we are the ones whose Christian light should be shining on them. Our friendship, our caring gestures, our listening ear, and our example of how Christ's love has changed us may be the light that helps them find their way to Christ.

As Christians, we have the greatest gift on Earth, why would we want to hide it under a bushel? If we are not friends with the lost, they may never know of God's love, forgiveness, and salvation. When one of these friends finds this hope and salvation, the rejoicing on Earth and in Heaven is great. So, keep shining that Christian light in this dark world.

I have become
all things to all
people, that by
all means I might
save some

Upcoming Events

November 9
Ladies Day
Southwest COC, Austin, TX

Please send any upcoming women's events in the central Texas area to:
uprightwoman@gmail.com

Be Strong and Courageous

by Jasmine Norman

The task of evangelism can be frightening. Perhaps what makes evangelism seem like such a daunting task is the belief that one's ability is inadequate. This is the exact fear Moses had in Exodus 3. Sometimes, Christians will begin to worry about their abilities without first remembering God's abilities. Paul tells Timothy in 1 Timothy 2:1-4 to pray for all people because it's acceptable to God and He desires everyone to be saved. One of the greatest and most effective evangelistic tools Christians have is the power of prayer. The Savior encouraged His disciples to pray for the work of evangelism (Matthew 9:37-38). Christians can be confident that God will hear and answer prayers according to His will (1 John 5:14-15). We need to pray for Christians and for their efforts to spread the gospel. Pray for opportunities to evangelize. Most of all pray for the hearts of the lost.

Another tool for evangelism is love. Jesus says in John 13:35 that Christians are identified by the way they love. In evangelism and in every aspect of life, Christians are to act in love. Loving others the way Jesus loves will attract the lost to Christianity. Jesus' mission was certainly motivated by love and He showed that to the lost in His teaching and in His service (Luke 7:12-13, Matthew 14:13-14, 20:29-34, Mark 6:34).

There are other tools for shining our light, seeing opportunities and showing God's power to save. Some of these are social media, seeking wise advice from our faithful Christian mentors, evangelistic tools for bible study, and so many more! We must take advantage of these resources to do the will of God to the best of our abilities. Effective evangelists will place their confidence in God and love the lost the way God loves. Throughout the book of Joshua God tells the people to "be strong and courageous" and this is exactly how we should be even in our world today.

About Upright Woman

The Upright Woman publication is intended to educate, promote, and encourage the women of the church to strive for righteousness in every aspect of life. It is the mission of this publication to provide women an opportunity to study the word and share articles about various issues and topics to encourage us to be upright women in an upside down world.

**"FOR THE LORD IS RIGHTEOUS; HE
LOVES RIGHTEOUS DEEDS; THE
UPRIGHT SHALL BEHOLD HIS FACE."
PSALM 11:7**



We pray that with every issue and with every article all glory is given to God.