

Doors and Adversaries

In 1 Corinthians 16:8,9, Paul speaks of his schedule...

“But I shall remain in Ephesus until Pentecost; for a wide door for effective service has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.”

The word “*door*” is a figurative way to speak of opportunity to stand for the gospel. “*Wide*” is literally the term “great” which refers to the magnitude of the opportunity. “*Effective*” is a term that might be translated “energetic” and here has the sense that Paul will certainly take advantage of the opportunity for the gospel.

The astounding aspect of this statement is seen in Paul’s recognition that there are “*many adversaries*.” He plans to remain in Ephesus and teach the gospel in spite of the fact that there are many opposers who will cause him trouble. That takes courage!

Christians today are likely to find themselves in similar circumstances that Paul faced in Ephesus. Whenever we take a stand for what is right, we are likely to be opposed. There may be “*many adversaries*” in our neighborhoods, or at school, or on the job. Yet, these should never hinder us from upholding God’s truth.

Every day there are doors of opportunity opened before us and when we walk through them, we will meet not a few, but *many* adversaries. Will we have the courage to stand up and be counted on the Lord’s side? Let us be, like Paul... one against many!

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