

Opportunities To Make a Difference!



#2982 1219 21A

Opportunities are presented every day—from insults to blessing; from offenses to gifts given, but we often do not take advantage of these opportunities to respond in a godly manner, or to thank God for what He has given. We often stumble over these opportunities.

Every offensive remark we hear; every injustice done to our children; every insult from an uncaring person—is an *opportunity* for us to meet scripturally, and to prove that *God will right every wrong* as He promises. Romans 12:19 “*I will repay, saith the Lord.*”

During this season and throughout the year, we will have many *interactions* with others, and our *attitudes* toward family, friends, and fellow believers should give evidence that we are making the most of every *opportunity* to show a Christ-like spirit and a godly way to respond.

Ephesians 5:15 “*See then that ye walk circumspectly [cautiously; watchfully; carefully; thoughtfully] not as fools, but as wise, 16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*”

Ephesians 5:15 “*So be careful how you live, not as fools but as those who are wise. 16 Make the most of every opportunity for doing good in these evil days.*”

Christmas comes from the *heart*; it is where our trust on *God* starts—totally depending on

Him to enable us to have a Christ-like attitude toward *everyone* during *every* season. We should be careful to *not* say hurtful things or to make someone feel uncomfortable. Jesus came to show us a better way to act and talk. *Redeeming* the time is *taking* the time to be thoughtful, kind, and caring toward everyone.

Christmas is a time to remember what God has given—the gift of His Son and His Spirit within so that we *can* act and talk as if He is right next to us—because He *is!* God gives the gift of His *Spirit*—Who enlightens us to know *how* to trust Him for a right attitude at all times.

Ephesians 5:15 “*So be careful how you live, not as fools but as those who are wise. 16 Make the most of every opportunity for doing good in these evil days.*”

God wants us to be *kind* and *considerate* during family gatherings; He wants us to show *respect, love, patience, and forgiveness* toward everyone. Those we *love*—make sure they *know* it—and they *will* know it by the way we *act* toward them and the way we *speak* to them. Every situation we face every day is an opportunity to redeem the time and show a Christ-like manner.

Jesus was born in a manger in humble surroundings, but only a few in Bethlehem took the time to visit; only a few took advantage of the opportunity—even though it was an event of the *greatest* importance—one that would *never* be repeated. Only Jesus, as God in “*flesh appearing,*” can *forgive* our sins, *change* our hearts, and *prepare* us for His kingdom!

God wants to give *us* what any loving father would give his *children*—perfect gifts! When the Prodigal Son returned from a life of sin, his father was waiting to accept him—and when *we* choose to give our life back to God, He is *still* waiting to accept us and do things *for* us—healing without drugs; food without welfare; protection without insurance; and eternal life by faith in Him.

Jesus means *Jehovah will save*—it is a testimony of God's *love* for us even before we showed *any* love for Him. Romans 5:8 “*But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*” It is high time to take advantage of every *opportunity* to respond to everyone and everything in a scriptural way—giving the matter to God in prayer.

The name *Jesus* is very significant—Acts 4:12 “*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*” To believe in His *Name*, is to trust on His *power*. By trusting on the Blood of Jesus, our sins can be *forgiven*; our heart can be *changed*; and our life *re-directed* toward Heaven. *That* is *redeeming* the time.

Ephesians 5:15 “*So be careful how you live, not as fools but as those who are wise. 16 Make the most of every opportunity for doing good in these evil days.*” Ephesians 5:17 “*Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.*”

All good *gifts* throughout all *seasons* are from God—and He is doing everything possible to *give* us even *more* blessings—we just need to *believe* Him and *trust* Him—even though the world *rejects* these gifts by *refusing* to *trust* Him.

Many are singing *peace and good will* during this season, but all too often it is soon forgotten. The true *meaning* of Christmas is to have *Christ* in our heart every moment throughout the year. We give *evidence* of *good will* in our heart by *showing* good will, divine love, kindness, and consideration to everyone—during *every* season.

Christmas cards show a scene of the angels announcing the birth of the Messiah, but the main reason can be obscured—that Jesus was born to Matthew 1:21 “*Save his people from their sins*”—by *changing* their attitude; *delivering* them from oppression; *providing* financial needs and *protecting* those who trust Him in faith.

Jesus would approve of our recognizing His birth and our knowing *why* He came to earth—two Gospels include the story—but He would *not* want us to commercialize the holiday as the world, and He would *not* approve of our accumulating more unnecessary things.

Christmas is generally when the Christian world focuses on the Messiah—Emmanuel, God with us—as the Lord Jesus who can *change* our life forever—if we are willing to *believe* that Jesus *is* who He *says* He is—God in Person who came to pay the debt for all the sins of all people in the world.

The mission is stated; Isaiah 9:6 “*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*”

The child who would be born, would be a *Savior* for all people of all nations—but the people of those nations must make a *choice*—a choice to *accept* Him as Lord and allow Him to *convert* their heart from *rebellion* and *resistance*; to *submission* and *acceptance*—placing their *faith* and *trust* on His atoning sacrifice. Everyone has to take advantage of the *opportunity* to make that *decision*.

“*Unto us a child is born*”—He began life as an infant and He met with temptations like we do. Hebrews 4:15 “*For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*”

God came to our earth to conquer Satan and sin—and now God gives spiritual *light* to those in spiritual *darkness*—if they will *believe* and *trust* Him every day for that light. Zechariah 14:9 “*And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.*” He must be the *one Lord* and only *King* of

our life—controlling our attitudes and guiding our decisions.

Luke 17:21 “*The kingdom of God is within you*” is the Spirit of Christ in our heart to inspire faith in us to depend on His sacrifice of Atonement for healing without drugs, supplies without welfare, protection without insurance, justice without lawyers, and for everything else.

We give gifts to those we love; but God gave the *greatest Gift* of His Son to atone for our sins—and to *change* our attitudes, so we would take advantage of every *opportunity* given, to *respond* and *react* in a truly Christ-like manner—whether meeting an offense or given a gift.

John 15:12 “*This is my commandment [Jesus said], That ye love one another, as I have loved you. 13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. 14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. John 15:15 For all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.*”

The Messiah’s *arrival* was a proclamation of *peace!* Luke 2:14 “*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*” Living His *Truth* includes living in *peace* with everyone; it means buying up every *opportunity* to respond as a *believer* in Christ would respond!

God’s favor rests on those who love Him with all of their heart, and those who are committed to take advantage of all opportunities to react in a godly manner. God promises His kingdom, if we will *repent* of our sins; *forsake* wrong attitudes; and *accept* His Son as Supreme Lord of our life—empowering us to *Redeem the time* and *take advantage of every opportunity* we meet to react in a godly way this holiday and beyond.

Jesus is our Lord and Master—which means *actively trusting* in the Atonement sacrifice He made for us—and *enduring in the faith* by the power of God. James 1:12 “*Happy the man who doth endure temptation, because, becoming*

approved, he shall receive the crown of the life, which the Lord did promise to those loving Him.” Those loving *Him* are those loving *people* right next to them.

The Christmas holiday inspires most people to be kind, thoughtful, and considerate for a few days; but *every day* and every year is the time to be *kindhearted* toward everyone, and an opportunity to make someone feel *wanted, needed, and loved!* God’s *Spirit* within enables us to *give*, and to want *nothing* in return—He enables us to *know* that and *believe* Acts 20:35 “*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*” Today is our *opportunity* to give evidence that we truly *believe* Acts 20:35.

He who created the *universe* is here today in the presence of His Spirit to do great things for us. Far too many of the 7.75 billion people on earth, do not give God *anything* to do, or they *limit* His power through unbelief and lack of faith in Him—nevertheless, He is *still* here on earth to do *marvelous* things for those who *ask* and *believe* He will do them as they continue to trust Him.

Hebrews 13:5 “*Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*” Today is the *day* and the *opportunity* to prove that God *means* what He says.

Anything we could need—spiritually, physically, materially, or otherwise is available by faith in God—through the atoning payment of His Son. Our responsibility is to *ask* and *believe* He will provide them. John 14:13 “*Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son!*” Today is the *opportunity* given us to *prove* that those Words are *absolutely true!*



www.fcgchurch.org

*Be on our free mailing list—contact:

PO Box 24283 Philadelphia, PA 19120

info@fcgchurch.org #2982 1219 21A