Intro: Paul in Gal. 6:10 “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.” mentions the fact that we have opportunity. The word opportunity literally means, something either in front of the door or just outside the harbor. This presents two pictures: First, a veiled figure standing at the door knocking, ready to depart if no answer comes: Second, a ship in the harbor ready to depart and just a moment to board her.

Opportunity, with treasure-laden hands, appears at every man’s door. The question we wish to look at this time is, “What do men do with her.”

I. SOME ABUSE HER.
A. King Saul.
1. 1 Sam. 9:10:1
   a. Opportunity came to Saul as an unexpected guess.
   b. Saul went in search of asses (donkeys) and he found a kingdom.
2. Saul proved unworthy.
   a. 1 Sam. 13:8-14 “And he tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel had appointed: but Samuel came not to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him. And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering. And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him. And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and thou camest not within the days appointed, and the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash; Therefore said I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the Lord: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering. And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the Lord thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the Lord have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever. But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the Lord hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the Lord hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the Lord commanded thee.”
   (1) Saul, a Benjamite, offered sacrifices which only a Levite was to do.
   (2) 1 Sam. 13:13-14 “And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the Lord thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the Lord have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever. But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the Lord hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the Lord hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the Lord commanded thee.”
   b. 1 Sam. 15.
      (1) God instructed Saul to go destroy the Amalekites. 1 Sam. 15:3 “Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.”
      (2) Saul spared many things. 1 Sam. 15:9 “But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them: but every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly.”
      (3) 1 Sam. 15:11,22-23 “It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the Lord all night....” And Samuel said, Hath the
Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. 23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king.”

c. Saul took that which God had given and used it to serve his own pride.

3. He who murdered his opportunity was himself murdered; 1 Sam. 31.

B. Judas Iscariot.

1. Called to the apostleship.
   a. Mark 3:14-19 “And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, 15 And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils: 16 And Simon he surnamed Peter; 17 And James the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed them Boanerges, which is, The sons of thunder: 18 And Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Canaanite, 19 And Judas Iscariot, which also betrayed him: and they went into an house.”
   b. He could have been one of the twelve foundations.
      (1) Eph. 2:20 “And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.”
      (2) Rev. 21:14 “And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.”

2. He abused his opportunity.
   a. Psa. 41:9 “Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.” Luke 22:3-4 “Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve. 4 And he went his way, and communed with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray him unto them.”
   b. Then he killed himself; Acts 1:16-20 “Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus. 17 For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry. 18 Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out. 19 And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, Aceldama, that is to say, The field of blood. 20 For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take.”

II. SOME SLIGHT HER.

A. Acts 13:44-46 “And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God. 45 But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming. 46 Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.”
   1. The Jews of Antioch in Pisidia, “put it from you.”
   2. Opportunities slighted are withdrawn and pass on to others.
   3. “We turn to the Gentiles.”

B. Acts 24:24-25 “And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. 25 And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.”
   1. Felix was given the opportunity but delayed in answering her call.
   2. While he delayed she passed on in darkness never to return.
C. Acts 26:27-29 “King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest. 28 Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian. 29 And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds.”

1. King Agrippa was “almost persuaded” yet he did not admit her.
2. He who does not answer when opportunity calls will call in vain for opportunity; 
   cf. Pro. 1:24-33 “Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; 25 But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: 26 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; 27 When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. 28 Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: 29 For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD: 30 They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. 31 Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. 32 For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them. 33 But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.”

III. SOME ADMIT HER.

A. Exo. 14-15

1. Israel at the Red Sea.
   a. They were released from Egyptian bondage.
   b. They came to the Red Sea with Egypt pursuing them.
2. In the crisis, opportunity came, providing a way of escape.
3. They accepted and were saved then they “sang the sweet song of deliverance.”

B. Acts 16:13-15 “And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither. 14 And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. 15 And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.”

1. Lydia.
2. Opportunity came when the preachers came with the word.
3. Lydia opened the door and the blessing of salvation was laid at her feet.

C. Acts 16:25-34

1. The Philippian jailor.
2. When opportunity came he admitted her.
3. When he admitted her, joy entered his house.
4. He who admits opportunity also admits salvation, joy, and hope.

IV. SOME SEEK HER.

A. Acts 8:26-40

1. Philip was told, “Arise, and go” and he “Arose and went.”
2. As he went he looked for opportunity.
3. He also made opportunity for another: the Ethiopian eunuch.

B. John 12:20-21 “And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast: 21 The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus.”

1. The Greeks.
2. All should seek Jesus, the most valuable treasure; cf. Mat. 13:45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls.”

C. Acts 10
1. Cornelius.
2. He did not wait for opportunity to knock at his door; he went in search of her.
3. He found her and was happy.

Conclusion: You are encompassed by the enemy of sin; but for you Jesus lived, died, conquered the grave, and provided a way of escape. You have an opportunity. Do not abuse her. Do not slight her. Why not admit her and accept her bounty?