

## Column

Retired Mississippi newspaperman Robert Hederman was quoted recently saying that the biggest life lesson he learned in college was that “opportunities are without borders.”

“There are opportunities locally in your hometown and opportunities around the world,” he went on to explain. “You just have to take advantage of them.”

Opportunities might be compared with gifts and endowments God gives us. We don’t always see and take advantage of them. But, of what opportunities might we be thinking?

The first that comes to mind are those relating to job or career. Sometimes people settle for second best because they refuse to look at new opportunities. They complain about how miserable they are in their present situation, but never look anywhere else.

Surely a happy medium exists between “bearing the ills we have rather than flying to others we know not of” and opening our eyes to new possibilities. These possibilities no doubt involve risks, but so be it. Good counsel in this regard can be found in Proverbs 3:6,7:

“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

Opportunities for service should likewise not be overlooked or missed. From time to time I hear people who retire to North Georgia say, “There is nothing much up here to do.” My answer is:

“Open your eyes. This area, like most areas, has a host of opportunities, many of which involve service. If you wish to make a difference in the world, if you wish to follow Christ’s example of service, look around. Often, in the process, new friendships are formed and a new purpose in life is found.”

Opportunities relating to our minds should likewise not be overlooked. It has been said, “You are never too old to learn.” This proverb is true.

At St. Luke's, we have a program entitled "Teaching Tuesdays" to provide just such opportunities. Subjects include such things as the role of Christianity in the founding of the American republic; Christian apologetics, how to answers questions about faith from my neighbour; basic Christian beliefs as found in the ancient creeds of the Church; and looking at Scripture as a great story or drama.

No doubt similar offerings for learning exist elsewhere. Availing ourselves of opportunities for life-long learning can make life richer, fuller and better. Truly, opportunities are without borders. Don't get left behind!

*Almighty and merciful God, of whose only gift it cometh that thy faithful people do unto thee true and laudable service; Grant, we beseech thee, that we may so faithfully serve thee in this life, that we fail not finally to attain thy heavenly promises; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Collect, the 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)*

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