

Our Golden Opportunity

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What do John Hagee, Kenneth Copeland, Pat Robertson, James Robinson, Rod Parsley, Paul Crouch, Jimmy Swaggert, Jim Bakker, Marilyn Hickey, Joyce Meyer, Paula White, Richard Roberts, Billy Graham, Charles Stanley, Robert Schuller, James D. Kennedy, and Joel Olson all have in common? Besides being one of the most disgusting lists of false teachers put together in one place in a great while, they all have in common their superiority over the airwaves of television. Practically any hour of the day or night the television pictures the faces and projects the falsehoods of these people. And, what does this observation teach us? Among the answers emerges one we would like to emphasize: the false teaching of these people is having a great impact on shaping the religious thinking of people all across America and in some instances across the world.

We may think their programs where they do mention the Bible are less than sophomoric because many of them endeavor to reduce all 66 books of the Bible, all 1,189 chapters, and all 31,102 verses down to just two subjects, health and wealth. Their approach is well known—if somehow the money that is in your pocket makes it into their pocket, you will be rewarded with either health or wealth or quite possibly both. They promise that, number one, it will not come from them as a return on the investment, and, number two, someone else will be obligated to make good on their claim and that one they insist is God. We may think that most people who hear these performers readily discern their error and place no credibility in them. Or, we may think that most people tune-out about as fast as they tuned-in to their program. While there is some truth in each one of these lines of reasoning, the amount of money collected annually by these people in total would undoubtedly exceed that of most third-world

countries! And, this fact demonstrates that many are listening to and loving their message.

Today we are in the position of no longer having to “hang our harps on the willows and weep” over this realization as did ancient Israel upon their deportation to Babylon (Ps. 137). Because in addition to nationally aired television programs like “Preaching the Gospel” with James Watkins and “In Search of the Lord’s Way” with Mack Lyon, we now have the Gospel Broadcasting Network (GBN) on which these two programs are aired along with scores of others produced by faithful brethren from all across the nation. Therefore, as stated in the title above we now have a “golden opportunity” to compete with those in opposition to the truth of God for the souls, the minds and hearts, of men and women through out America and in significantly populated places elsewhere in the world.

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Our prayers of long duration are being answered for greater means of communicating the gospel of Christ to the multiplied millions around us through this cooperative effort of churches of Christ. We have been schooled for long years on the command to evangelize the lost and the expedients that rightly may be employed to accomplish this massive responsibility. Since the launching of GBN in November of 2005, a great number of brethren have moved into action preaching, teaching, and

producing television programming that is true to the Book for consumption by a discerning American public. 50,000 homes in this country alone now have access to twenty-four-hours-a-day Bible television programming. Many are soliciting cable providers in their communities to carry GBN for their viewers. Some are being successful, and while we still have a great deal of work to do in getting GBN into all the homes in America and plans are set and are being brought into reality in some areas to have GBN on worldwide, something is happening that is lifting the spirits of loving, faithful brethren everywhere. More and more people are receiving the option of hearing the truth, the whole counsel of God, and no longer must remain subjected to the ridiculous ranting of radical religious rulers.

The continuation of GBN from a financial perspective is well within view as more and more Christians accept the invitation to be a regular monthly contributor and as more and more congregations make permanent plans to participate in giving their fifth Sunday contribution, or wherein they are able to give over their regular budget, to GBN that Sunday.

We can support this work. We can have a greater impact on a world lost in the confusion of sin and religious error. We can compete in the marketplace of religious ideas and take the high ground by "preaching the truth in love" to a world that has lost its way, if it ever knew it.

Soon GBN will be one year old. That in itself is a remarkable accomplishment. It is unprecedented in modern times. Over that short space much has been learned about using television and satellite production for the cause of Christ. Much has been learned about the brotherhood and the universal desire we all have to cooperate for the greater good of the world spiritually. Much has been accomplished. Much more stands to be accomplished. "If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Rom. 8:31). Is God for us? Does he actually want this large, costly project to succeed? Hear it directly from him, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to

observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen" (Mt. 28:19-20).