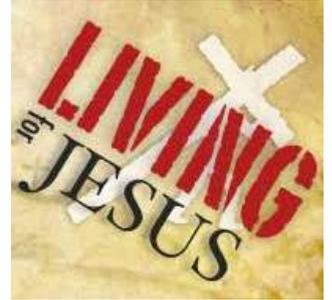


Having a Kingdom Perspective in the way we live our life

As pastors and leaders it is crucial that we continually encourage all Christians to wholeheartedly pursue the things of God and to do so ourselves. We are now living in times where we are seeing increased lawlessness and when we are now seeing Christians being subjected to greater persecution and rejection for their Christian values.

For this reason we need to continually encourage believers;



- 1) *That God truly has the best plan for their lives and that His ways are higher than our ways*

In the book of Isaiah we read,

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.” **(Isaiah 55:8-9)** AND

- 2) *To remain strong in their walk with the Lord and to finish their walk of faith well*

It is not how we started our walk with the Lord that matters, but it is how we finish that really matters. Jesus Himself warned of the fact that the love of many would grow cold in the times that we are now living in. (Matthew 24:12-13)

The Apostle Paul also wrote about the times that we are now living in,

“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!” **(2 Timothy 3:1-5)**

With so many distractions and temptations now in our world, it is crucial that we continually encourage all Christians to remain intimate in their walk with the Lord and to keep focused on the eternal things.

The Apostle Paul wrote near the end of his time here on earth,

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.” **(2 Timothy 4:7-8)**

In this teaching I will be outlining several reasons why it is so important to continually have a Kingdom perspective in the way that we live our lives, as well as sharing some keys that can help us to live this way.

As leaders we need to be examples of what it is to live for the Kingdom Cause.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the young pastor Timothy, “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” **(1 Timothy 4:12)**

I will begin with some of the reasons why it is so important to always live as a Christian with a Kingdom perspective.

- i. Only Christ can give us true peace and joy in our heart at all times. Even during the storms of life we can have peace in our heart if our trust and confidence is in Christ alone

Jesus Himself said,

“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” **(John 14:27)**

Jesus also said,

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” **(John 16:33)**

King David wrote,

“You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” **(Psalm 16:11)**

- ii. We were all made to live in relationship with God. It is only when we do life together with Him that we realise our full potential in life. God has a unique plan for every believer’s life

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” **(Ephesians 2:10)**

The Apostle Paul also wrote,

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,” **(Ephesians 3:20)**

- iii. Only the Lord can meet our deepest needs in life. (Every human being has a need to feel accepted, to have true purpose and meaning in life and to feel secure)

- iv. Only Christ's love is unconditional. He is the lover of our soul. When we learn to abide in His love we will always be emotionally secure. If we live to crave the acceptance of others, our life will invariably be an emotional roller-coaster full of ups and downs. The simple fact is that people will at times let us down in life, but God promises to never leave nor forsake us when we come to Christ.

In the book of Hebrews we read,

“...For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’ So we may boldly say: “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?” **(Hebrew 13:5-6)**

- v. Only complete dependence on Christ will give us true STABILITY in life - Where He becomes the Rock on which we build our lives

Jesus Himself said,

“Therefore, whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the **rock**; and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.” **(Matthew 7:24-25)**

- vi. As Christians we can tap into all of God's blessings and Kingdom promises

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.” **(Ephesians 1:3)**

In Christ we have chosen, we have been adopted into God’s family, we have been forgiven, we have been accepted and we can build our lives on God’s promises in His Word. God has so much planned for every believer’s life.

The Apostle Paul also wrote,

“For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.” **(2 Corinthians 1:20)**

- vii. It is only in following God's plan for our life (Living for the Kingdom Cause) that we will continually experience great purpose and meaning in our life.

In the long run God has the best plan for our life

Jesus Himself said,

“... I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” **(John 10:10)**

- viii. We are also now living in an ever increasing lawless world where we are now subjected to greater temptations in life. We are also seeing more opposition towards Christian values and against those who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus. (We must not allow the spirit of this world to ERODE our faith)

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them,” **(2 Timothy 3:12-14)**

- ix.** More than ever before the enemy of our soul, the devil, is working overtime to undermine and if possible to destroy the faith of believers as we see the nearness of the rapture of all true believers.

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.” **(1 Thessalonians 4:15-17)**

Due to the nearness of the rapture it is always important to be cautious and disciplined in the way that we live our lives as believers. As believers we are in a continual spiritual war in which the devil would try and sidetrack us and rob us of our God given destiny. There are many scriptures that caution us about the times that we are now living in and for the need to be alert and looking for the return of the Lord. There are also many scriptures that also emphasise the need for us to remain strong in our faith in the times that we are now living in.

The Apostle Peter wrote,

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.” **(1 Peter 5:8-9)**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” **(Ephesians 5:15-17)**

In the book of James we read,

“Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full grown, brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.” **(James 1:12-16)**

Jesus Himself said,

“But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.” **(Luke 21:34-36)**

- x. Our faith is the most precious thing that we have and it is eternal. As Christians we must never forget that we are to be in this world but not of it and that our true home one day is with Jesus. With this in mind we need to continually keep our focus on the eternal things when we are going through trials and challenges in life.

When we have an eternal perspective for our life we will always rise above the temporary adverse circumstances in our life as we keep our focus on the bigness of God. We must never lose sight of the fact that as believers we have an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled reserved in heaven for us.

The Apostle Peter wrote, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

In this you greatly rejoice though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honour, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love.

Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls. **(1 Peter 1:3-9)**

- xi. Because one day we will receive our rewards from Jesus for what we did in our life here on earth for God’s Kingdom. For this reason our focus always needs to be on storing up treasures in heaven as we live with a Kingdom perspective

Jesus Himself said, “For the Son of Man will come in the glory of his Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.” **(Matthew 16:27)**

The Apostle Paul wrote, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.” **(2 Corinthians 5:10)**

Jesus also said,

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” **(Matthew 6:19-21)**

Given that one day we will all give an account of our life here on earth, it is crucial that we do not get sidetracked by the things of this world and squander our gifts and talents. We have one gift of life to make a difference in our world for eternity.

For this reason it is important that we fully utilize our spiritual gifts here on earth and are good stewards of our gifts and talents and use our time wisely. In doing this our lives will make a great difference in this world for eternity and we will one day be rewarded by the Lord for what we did here on earth in helping to see God's Kingdom expanded here on earth.

With this in mind how important it is for us to always know and follow God's will for our life in each season of our life and to be diligent in serving the Lord out of a heart of love and gratitude for what He did for us on the cross at Calvary. In this way our lives will bear much eternal fruit.

The Apostle Paul wrote,

"See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is." **(Ephesians 5:15-17)**

The Apostle Paul also wrote,

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

(1 Corinthians 15:58)

- xii.** We are now living in times where we can share the wonderful hope that we have in Christ with many others. If we continue to remain strong in our faith we will be able to help many other people to come to faith in Christ in the times that we are now living in. Truly the harvest is ripe but the labourers are few. (Luke 10:2)

Jesus Himself emphasised the urgency for reaching out to the lost when He said,

"Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!" **(John 4:35)**

Jesus also said in His great commission to His disciples, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." **(Mark 16:15)**

In the book of Proverbs we read, "Deliver those who are drawn toward death, and hold back those stumbling to the slaughter. If you say, "Surely we did not know this," does not He who weighs the hearts consider it? He who keeps your soul, does He not know it? And will He not render to each man according to his deeds?" **(Proverbs 24:11-12)** In the book of Proverbs we also read, "... And he who wins souls is wise." **(Proverbs 11:30a)**

When we have a Kingdom perspective for life we will always appreciate the value of every soul to God and have a heart to share our faith with others

SO HOW DO WE MAINTAIN A KINGDOM PERSPECTIVE IN THE TIMES THAT WE ARE NOW LIVING IN:

- 1) We must continually spend quality time with the Lord to get to know Him intimately. (Ephesians 3:17-19) We need to continually keep ourselves in the love of God (Jude 21)

The more intimate we are in our walk with the Lord the more we will instinctively love others. (Psalm 37:4) (Romans 5:5)

The closer we are in our walk with the Lord the more we will have Christ's compassion for others. It is so important that we continually have a close and intimate (abiding) relationship with the Lord (John 15:4-5) so that we can grow in Christlike character and in our love for others

In the gospel of Matthew we read,

"Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people."

"But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd."
(Matthew 9:35-36)

Intimacy with the LORD helps us to remain strong in our faith and to gain Christ's heart of compassion.

The Apostle Paul wrote,

"But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ." **(Philippians 3:7-8)**

King David had a great love for God. He knew God intimately.

King David wrote,

"O GOD, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for you; My flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory. Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You."

"Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, And my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips. When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches. Because You have been my help, Therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice." **(Psalm 63:1-7)**

- 2) Building our life on the Word of God. Meditating on the Word of God on a regular basis helps to prevent deception from entering into our heart and life.

Continual obedience to God's Word is a great key to preventing deception from entering into our life

Jesus Himself said, "If you abide in My word you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." **(John 8:31-32)**

The Apostle Paul emphasised to the young Pastor Timothy the importance of continually building his life on the Word of God

The Apostle Paul wrote,

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." **(2 Timothy 3:16-17)**

Meditating on the Word of God helps to keep our faith built up so that we are always prepared to handle any storm that may come our way in life.

Having our faith continually built up by meditating on the Word of God also gives us the ability to more readily take steps of faith when God puts on our heart new and bigger things to do for His glory

The Apostle Paul wrote,

"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." **(Romans 10:17)**

- 3) We need to keep our focus on the eternal things and allow the Lord to lead us and to live through us.

We are Christ's ambassadors here on earth and have been called to help see God's Kingdom being established here on earth as we help others to come to Christ

The Apostle Paul wrote,

"Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God." **(2 Corinthians 5:18-20)**

We must not allow the things of this world to steal our affections for the Lord

Jesus Himself said,

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." **(Matthew 6:19-21)**

True joy and purpose comes from knowing Christ intimately and living for the Kingdom Cause

John the Baptist wrote in relation to Christ, "He must increase, but I must decrease." (John 4:30)

In a similar way we as Christians need to take our focus off ourselves more and what we always want and commit on a daily basis to living wholeheartedly for Christ. This is a great key to experiencing the life and life more abundantly that Jesus spoke of in John 10:10

To know Christ intimately and to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge needs to always be our greatest pursuit in life.

King David was a man after God's own heart and his greatest pursuit in life was to know the LORD intimately. We see this in the Psalms.

King David wrote,

"I will praise *You*, O LORD, with my whole heart;
I will tell of all Your marvellous works.
I will be glad and rejoice in You;
I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High."

(Psalm 9:1-2)

"I will love You, O LORD, my strength.
The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer;
My God, my strength, in whom I will trust;
My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold."

(Psalm 18:1-2)

BEING A WORSHIPPER IS A GREAT KEY TO ALWAYS MAINTAINING A FERVENT LOVE FOR THE LORD. KING DAVID HAD A GREAT PASSION TO WORSHIP GOD

Worship is also a great key to getting a right perspective of our problems in life.

When we worship God we get His perspective for our problems. "For with God nothing will be impossible." (Luke 1:37)

WHOLEHEARTEDLY SERVING THE LORD WITH OUR GIFTS IS ALSO A GREAT KEY TO EXPERIENCING FULLNESS OF LIFE AND TO SEEING ALL THAT GOD HAS PLANNED FOR OUR LIFE COMING TO PASS

We must not allow the distractions of life and the opinions of others to draw us away from living for the Kingdom Cause. In reality a life lived apart from the will of God for our life will never truly satisfy us

We can see the blessings and rewards that come from investing our lives for the Kingdom Cause in Jesus' parable of the talents.

In this Parable Jesus said, "For the kingdom of heaven is like a man travelling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.

Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his Lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' "His Lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord."

"He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' "His Lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord."

(Matthew 25:14-23)

- 4) We need to be careful about who we associate with. We need to have friends who will encourage us to become all that God has planned for our life. We must avoid sceptics who would seek to tear down our faith

Who we associate with in life will have a great bearing on whether or not we fulfil God's destiny for our life. The bible makes this very clear.

The Apostle Paul wrote,

"Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits." **(1 Corinthians 15:33)**

In the book of Proverbs we read,"The righteous should choose his friends carefully, For the way of the wicked leads them astray." **(Proverbs 12:26)**

"He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed." **(Proverbs 13:20)**

The Psalmist wrote,

"Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper." **(Psalm 1:1-3)**

- 5) We need to lead a simple lifestyle of obedience. We must be quick to repent of and to forsake all known sin in our lives. This is a great key to continually keeping our heart soft and sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit and preventing our heart from becoming hardened through sin in our life

In the book of Hebrews we read,

“Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,” **(Hebrews 3:12-14)**

Sin and disobedience will also hinder our prayer life.

In the book of Psalms we read,

“I cried to Him with my mouth, And He was extolled with my tongue. If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear. But certainly God has heard me; He has attended to the voice of my prayer.” **(Psalm 66:17-19)**

Obedience positions us to receive God's blessing and favour upon our lives.

In the book of Isaiah we read,

“If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land.” **(Isaiah 1:19)**

Jesus Himself said in relation to being obedient to God's Word,

“More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!” **(Luke 11:28)**

- 6) We need to CHOOSE to continually trust God at all times with all of our heart in EVERY situation. We must not allow fear and anxiety to influence our decisions in life

God knows what we really need in life and is able to meet our every NEED in life

Without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6)

The bible is full of many encouraging scriptures that can give us the confidence to trust God at all times

See Hebrews 11:1, Proverbs 3:5-6, Matthew 6:31-33 and Philippians 1:6

King David wrote,

“Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. **Delight yourself also in the Lord**, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.”
(Psalm 37:3-5)

We have a God who is both willing and able to help us in time of need. God has a great love for all people and His desire is to see all people living a fulfilled life. For this reason He wants to help us to do life well. Prayer involves God in our lives and is a great key to seeing all that God has planned for our life coming to pass

Jesus Himself said, “Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.”

“Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.” **(Mark 11:22-24)**

7) Continually forgiving those who have hurt us.

God has given Christians the ministry of reconciliation. As Christians we have been called to help people to become reconciled back to God. God is always willing to forgive all those who come to Him in repentance and faith. As His representatives here on earth, how important it is for us as believers to demonstrate what it is to walk in forgiveness towards others.

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.” **(2 Corinthians 5:18-20)**

We must refuse to allow offences to enter our heart

Jesus Himself warned us that many would be offended in the times that we are now living in.

Jesus Himself said,

“And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.”
(Matthew 24:10-11)

We must always be quick to forgive others.

Jesus clearly emphasised the importance of forgiving others when He said,
“And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.”
(Mark 11:25-26)

Allowing offences into our heart will negatively affect our relationships both with others and with God and hinder our prayer life

- 8)** Being disciplined in what we focus on in life. What we allow into our eye gaits and ears will greatly influence the way that we live our life. The world is full of ungodly influences that can undermine and even have the potential to destroy our faith.

Jesus Himself predicted that because of lawlessness in the times that we are now living in the love of many would grow cold. (Matthew 24:12-13)
As God knows the beginning from the end He knew that in the times that we are now living in that the internet would exist and be a tool which can be used either for good or for bad.

Given the availability of so much ungodly content on the internet and on TV how more than ever before we need to be disciplined in what we focus on as believers.

The Apostle Paul clearly emphasised what we should focus on as believers. He wrote,

“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy-meditate on these things.” **(Philippians 4:8) AND**

- 9)** Living to glorify God through our lives

When we live our lives with a Kingdom perspective we have a great desire to glorify God by the way that we live our lives (1 Corinthians 10:31)

For some people we are the only bible that they will ever read.

The way that we live our lives can help draw people to Christ or have the potential to cause people to reject Christ if we as professing Christians live in an insensitive and clumsy way

Jesus Himself said,

“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavour, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.”
(Matthew 5:13)

“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. **(Matthew 5:14-16)**

So how as Christians can we be the salt of the earth and the light of the world?

How can we live as Christians in a way that we glorify God with our lives?

I will finish with just a few suggestions as to how we can truly be salt and light in our world as Christians

- i) By the way that we love others (John 13:34-35) (Luke 6:27-28)
- ii) By the way that we serve others (Matthew 20:26-28)
- iii) By the way that we quickly forgive others (Ephesians 4:32) (Mark 11:25-26)
- iv) By consistently speaking words of life and encouragement to others (Proverbs 15:23) (Colossians 4:6)

The Apostle Paul wrote, “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.” **(Ephesians 4:29)**

- v) Through having a good attitude in all that we do as we do things unto the Lord (Colossians 3:23-24)
- vi) Through demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit in the way that we live our life
The Apostle Paul wrote, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.” **(Galatians 5:22-23)**
- vii) Through having a spirit of excellence in all that we do in life (Daniel 6:3)
- viii) Through our genuine love for the Lord and our passion for the things of God (Mark 12:29-30), and
- ix) By our genuine love and concern to help lead people to Christ as we share with others the wonderful hope that we have in Christ
In the book of Daniel we read, “Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever.” **(Daniel 12:3)**