

IT'S TIME TO "GO" - BEING MISSIONS FOCUSED (HAVING GOD'S HEART FOR EVANGELISM)

- Today I want to share on the importance of being missions minded as Christians given the times that we are now living in
- I will also be sharing in today's teaching **FOUR** keys that can help us to gain God's heart for evangelism and to be prepared to share our faith with others

I WILL BEGIN HOWEVER BY SHARING A FEW THOUGHTS ON THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL MESSAGE TO IMPACT OUR WORLD – JESUS IS THE ONLY HOPE FOR HUMANITY

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.” **(Romans 1:16-17)**

- **There is power in the gospel message to bring TRANSFORMATION to lives, to cities and to NATIONS (As we saw with the Welsh revival)**
- **In Acts 8:4 we read, “Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.”**

- **EVERY BELIEVER HAS AN IMPORTANT MINISTRY AND MISSIONS FIELD WHERE GOD HAS PLACED THEM**
- **So how important it is that every Christian has a souls focus in the perilous times that we are now living in**
- **THEN IN ACTS 8:5-8 WE SEE THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL MESSAGE TO BRING TRANSFORMATION TO A CITY CALLED SAMARIA**

“Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. **AND THERE WAS GREAT JOY IN THAT CITY” (Acts 8:4-8)**

- **IF EVER THERE IS A TIME TO BREAK OPEN OUR LIVES FOR THE GOSPEL’S SAKE, NOW IS THE TIME**

Jesus Himself 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)**

IT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT WE BOTH “PRAY” AND “GO” LIKE NEVER BEFORE WHILST IT IS STILL DAY

In the book of Acts we see the importance of both “PRAYER” and “GOING” after the disciples had gathered together to pray after Peter and John had been threatened for their Christian faith after they had prayed for the lame man to be healed in Solomon’s porch;

“Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, ‘by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the Name of Your Holy Servant Jesus.’”

“And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.” (Acts 4:29-31)

■ **As Christians we have been saved for a purpose**

The Apostle Paul made this very clear in the following two passages of Scripture.

FIRSTLY, 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)

SECONDLY, 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)

EVERY BELIEVER HAS AN IMPORTANT PART TO PLAY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST. WE ALL NEED ONE ANOTHER IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

So how important it is that we connect with our calling as believers

▪ GOD’S HEART TRULY IS THAT NONE WOULD PERISH

This is why Jesus said to His disciples,

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” (Mark 16:15)

- **We only have one gift of life here on earth to store up treasures in heaven**
- **One gift of life to make an eternal difference in the lives of others. We are now nearing the middle of May already; it just seems like yesterday that we celebrated New Years Eve**

- **This is why we need to be always intentional in living for the Kingdom Cause and in having a missions focus**

Jesus Himself also emphasised the importance of living our lives with eternity in mind when He 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)**

- I WILL NOW JUST QUICKLY SHARE SIX REASONS WHY IT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT WE ARE MISSIONS MINDED IN THE TIMES THAT WE ARE NOW LIVING IN, BEFORE SHARING FOUR IMPORTANT KEYS THAT CAN HELP US TO BE CONSISTENTLY MISSIONS MINDED IN OUR CHRISTIAN WALK

1) Because Jesus is coming back soon

Jesus Himself said in relation to the times that we are now living in,

“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)**

In the book of Revelation we read, “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.” **(Revelation 22:12)**

2) Because it is God's heart for the lost to be saved. As Christians we are the hands and feet of Jesus

We see God's heart of compassion for the lost in the gospel of Matthew, "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**)

Jesus also said, "... for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." (**Luke 19:1-10**)

3) Because without a mission focus, we will invariably squander much of our time on things that have no real eternal significance

In His explanation of the parable of the Sower Jesus said, "Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred." (**Mark 4:18-20**)

4) Because other people's eternal destinies are connected to us being faithful in living for the Kingdom Cause

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**)

5) Because true purpose and meaning and joy in life only comes from knowing Christ intimately and from living wholeheartedly for the Kingdom Cause

- Flowing in our gifts and calling is a great key to living a life of great purpose and meaning as Christians.
- We will always have a divine discontentment when we are not following God's plan for our life

Jesus Himself said, “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” **(John 10:10)**

In His Parable of the Talents Jesus said,

“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 25:20-23)**

- When we connect with our calling and flow in our spiritual gifts we experience great joy and purpose in our Christian walk, **AND**

6) Because one day Jesus will reward us for what we have done for Him during our time here on earth

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)**

- I WOULD LIKE TO NOW SHARE FOUR IMPORTANT KEYS TO LIVING WITH A MISSION'S FOCUS AND TO BEING EFFECTIVE IN CONSISTENTLY SHARING OUR FAITH WITH OTHERS

1) Jesus needs to be our first love (Especially given the lawless times that we are now living in)

- Everything flows out of maintaining an intimate walk with the Lord. (We need to gain God's heart for the lost)

➤ In a world full of temptations and distractions we need to purposely make our love for Jesus the greatest priority in life

- It is so important that we do not allow the things of this world to steal our affections for Christ especially in the lawless and materialistic times that we are now living in

Jesus Himself said in relation to the times that we are now living in,

“And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold, But he who endures to the end shall be saved.” (**Matthew 24:12-13**)

- Our love for Christ needs to be our greatest priority in the times that we are now living in. Otherwise like Martha we can become worried and troubled about many things

- As life can become busy at times, we need to purposely make time each day to spend with the Lord

- Revelation from God always comes in isolation

In the book of Jeremiah we read,

“For who has stood in the counsel of the LORD, And has perceived and heard His word? Who has marked His word and heard it?” (**Jeremiah 23:18**)

➤ King David would have been a very busy man but his priority was to know God intimately

➤ King David was the only man referred to in the bible as being a man after God's own heart

We see King David's great love for God in Psalm 63 where he 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 63:4-7)

➤ When our love for Christ is truly our greatest focus in life it will be natural to share our faith with others

➤ When Christ is truly our first love, we will also have His compassion for the lost

➤ Jesus was moved with compassion when He saw the multitudes, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd

➤ Right now, there is a world full of people who are weary and discouraged in life, especially the youth

➤ How we need God's heart of compassion in the times that we are now living in

King David wrote, “**Delight yourself also in the Lord,**
And He shall give you the desires of your heart.”
(**Psalm 37:4**)

- Nothing can ever truly satisfy us (especially as believers) like knowing Christ intimately.
- The Apostle Paul knew this very well

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 also 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**)

- WE NEED TO LEARN TO PRACTICE GOD’S PRESENCE IN OUR LIVES AND TO CULTIVATE INTIMACY IN OUR WALK WITH THE LORD. (It is good to have a place where we meet with God)

- When Christ is our first love it will be reflected in the way that we live our life and what we talk about

- As Christians we can radiate God’s peace and joy and love in the way that we live our lives if we maintain an abiding relationship with Jesus Christ

- If, however we are more attached to the things of this world than we are focused on the things of God, it will also be reflected in the way that we live our life here on earth and in how we speak to others and share our faith

Jesus Himself said, “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.” **(Luke 6:45)**

- If we are more excited about the rugby or cricket results or other things in life than what Christ has done and is doing in and through our lives, we will no longer really be salt and light in the world

- We must not allow the cares of this life and the things of this world to steal our affections for the Lord especially as we see the imminent rapture of all true believers

The Apostle Paul wrote, “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” **(Romans 12:2)**

Jesus Himself emphasised the importance of making our relationship with God our greatest priority when He said; ““And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment.” **(Mark 12:30)** “And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” **(Mark 12:31)**

➤ It is our love for the LORD that will give us His love and compassion for others and compel us to share our faith with others; in season and out of season

➤ So may I encourage you as we live in a world that is getting more and more lawless, that you would simply come back to a heart of worship and that your greatest desire would be to know Christ intimately in the times that we are now living in!

Jesus Himself said, “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:23-24)

2) WE NEED TO LIVE OUR LIVES WITH ETERNITY IN MIND

We need to purposely live our life with Kingdom priorities in how we use our time, talents and resources

➤ We only have a set number of days in our life to make an eternal difference in the lives of others

➤ We only have one gift of life here on earth to store up treasures in heaven

King David wrote,

“LORD, make me to know my end,
And what *is* the measure of my days,
That I may know how frail I *am*.

⁵ Indeed, You have made my days *as* handbreadths,
And my age *is* as nothing before You;
Certainly every man at his best state *is* but vapor. *Selah*

⁶ Surely every man walks about like a shadow;
Surely they ^[a]busy themselves in vain;

He heaps up *riches*,

And does not know who will gather them.” (Psalm 39:4-6)

- **King David was well aware of the brevity of life and the futility of expending all of our lives on the pursuit of temporary riches**

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)**

➤ The world, the flesh and the Devil are all continually influences that can draw people away from living for the Kingdom Cause

- The Devil is also good at keeping people busy and distracted by things that have no real eternal significance
- **Particularly now with the smart phone there are many ways for people to be distracted from following wholeheartedly after the Lord**
- **The Devil’s sole focus is to thwart God’s salvation plan and to minimise the number of people who get saved**

Jesus Himself said, “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”
(Matthew 7:13-14)

➤ For this reason, we need to purposely choose each day to live our lives with an eternal and missions focus so that we can help many others to come to Christ during our time here on earth

➤ As Christians we need to see our workplaces, schools and neighbourhoods as being our missions fields

➤ John Wesley the great revivalist preacher said “The world is my parish”

➤ So as Christians given all the temptations and distractions in the world around us, we need to choose daily to live for the Lord if we are to make a difference in our world for eternity

➤ This is why Jesus said what it involved to be truly a disciple of His

Jesus said,

“Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it.” **(Mark 8:34-35)**

➤ It is only in living this crucified life that we will realize our full potential in Christ and bear much eternal fruit

Again, this is why the Apostle Paul wrote, “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” **(Romans 12:2)**

Jesus Himself also said,

“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”
(Matthew 6:24)

- There is a contest on for our God given destiny because other people’s eternal destinies are connected to us being faithful to God’s plan for our lives
 - Prayerfully involving God in all of our plans helps us to maintain a Kingdom and missions focus in our walk with the Lord.
 - Again, as Christians we are to be in the world but NOT of it
 - The Devil will continually try and get us to squander our time, gifts and talents by distracting us from fulfilling our God given assignment here on earth. The real battle is for the mind
 - The Devil will also try and bring wrong friends into our lives to draw us away from our God given assignment here on earth. Not necessarily evil people, but worldly-minded people
- It is so important that we do both our career and calling well
- That we do not get so caught up with our career and the pursuit of the material things of this life that we do not live our life with a mission’s focus
 - Given the fact that we come into the world with nothing and leave the world with nothing it is so important that we have a Kingdom perspective in how we use our gifts and talents and resources

- Having a Kingdom and missions focus will greatly affect the way that we use our finances and TIME and in the priorities that we have in life

- Having a Kingdom focus will cause us to want to invest our time and talents in storing up treasures in heaven

- **OUR TIME IS OUR MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE**

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)**

- Reinherd Bonnke was a very gifted man who could have easily been a very successful business man given his great organizational talents.
- But he committed his life to pursuing his ministry calling to Africa with the result that over 80 million people have come to Christ through his life and ministry.
- Reinherd Bonnke has now gone to be with the Lord
- Given that we have one gift of life here on earth to live for Christ, having a Kingdom focus in the use of our time, talents and resources is a great key to helping us to continually have a missions focus in the way that we live our life
- LAST YEAR THE FOLLOWING SCRIPTURE REALLY STOOD OUT HOW WE MUST NOT ALLOW THE TEMPORAL THINGS OF THIS WORLD TO DISTRACT US AND TO TAKE OUR FOCUS OFF THE ETERNAL THINGS, ESPECIALLY AS WE SEE THE NEARNESS OF THE RAPTURE OF ALL TRUE BELIEVERS

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“But this I say, brethren, the time is short, so that from now on even those who have wives should be as though they had none, those who weep as though they did not weep, those who rejoice as though they did not rejoice, those who buy as though they did not possess, and those who use this world as not misusing it. For the form of this world is passing away.” **(1 Corinthians 7:29-31)**

- I just want to encourage you that you will never come second putting God first in the long run
- We can be assured that if we put Christ and the things of the Kingdom first in our life God will meet our every need in life as we pursue His plan for our life

Jesus Himself said, “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ Or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” **(Matthew 6:31-33)**

- We have one gift of life to store up treasures in heaven
- How important it is that we continually live our lives with eternity in mind

3) BEING CONTINUALLY GUIDED BY AND EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

- It is so important to be continually guided by the Holy Spirit so that we can make right choices in life
- Being continually guided by the Holy Spirit helps us to be always at the right place at the right time

➤ The simple fact is that we have a very real adversary, the Devil, who would love to complicate our lives

- Being sensitive to the guidance and leading of the Holy Spirit is crucial to consistently making right choices in life and to fulfilling our God given potential in Christ
- From early in my Christian walk my desire was always to know the voice of God
- In a world full of temptations and distractions it is crucial that we are continually guided by the Holy Spirit in all that we do in life

➤ Involving God in all of our plans helps us to make right choices in relation to our career choices, where we are to live and how we are to use our time

Jesus Himself said,

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” **(John 14:26)**

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” **(John 16:13)**

- Being continually guided by the Holy Spirit helps us to remain in the will of God for our lives and to keep our focus on the Kingdom Cause

King David wrote,

“The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds him with His hand.” **(Psalm 37:23-24)**

- It is in the will of God for our lives that we see God’s favour and blessing upon our lives and God opening up doors that no man can close and our lives bearing much eternal fruit

- It is ALSO crucial that we always depend upon the Holy Spirit when witnessing to and ministering to others

- Jesus Himself depended upon the Holy Spirit during His ministry here on earth

In the book of Acts we read,

“how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.” **(Acts 10:38)**

The Apostle Paul also wrote,

“I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.” **(1 Corinthians 2:3-5)**

Jesus Himself said,

“Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist.” **(Luke 21:14-15)**

- Being baptized in the Holy Spirit and then continually filled with the Holy Spirit empowers us to be effective in witnessing to and preaching to others

In the book of Acts we read the words of Jesus,

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” **(Acts 1:8)**

- As we give out to others, we need to be continually filled afresh with the Holy Spirit ourselves. That we always share and minister out of the overflow of God’s Spirit in our own lives

This is why the Apostle Paul wrote,

“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,” **(Ephesians 5:18)**

AND

4) The importance of making plans and commitments to reach out to the lost. There is power in having a focused mind

In the book of Proverbs we read,

“The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, but those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty.” **(Proverbs 21:5)**

- **Every Sunday I prayerfully seek the Lord for His outreach initiatives for the coming week for our church. We then make plans and commitments to complete those outreach initiatives with our evangelism team**
- During the four-month lockdown here in Sydney due to Covid 19, my missions focus was to everyday letter box drop gospel tracts in the 5km radius (100 square kilometers) around my place of residence. In doing this I was able to letter box drop gospel tracts in around 20,000 homes as I had missions focus for my exercise time
- Purposely making plans to share our faith is a great key to being missions focused in our walk with the Lord
- It is good to start each day by getting God’s perspective for the day ahead

In the book of Proverbs we read,

“Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established.” **(Proverbs 16:3)**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Without having a commitment to sharing our faith with others, we will invariably miss many opportunities to help lead people to Christ with weeks and months passing by |
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- WE NEED TO MAKE EVANGELISM A LIFESTYLE rather than just a weekly or monthly activity. Each day we can bring the goodness of God into our spheres of influence as we share the love of Christ with others
- The Lord impressed upon my heart some time ago that the “...exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think” plan of God (Ephesians 3:20) for our life unfolds over time, as we are just daily open to living wholeheartedly for Him;
- That if we daily live our life with eternity in mind, over the course of our lifetime we will help many people to come to Christ and encourage many people to fulfil God’s plan for their lives.
- This can be seen in the faithfulness of Frank Jenner who for many years gave out just 10 gospel tracts every day in George Street in Sydney.
- Through this simple ministry around 146,000 people worldwide were touched by his life with many coming to Christ and eventually entering into full time ministry themselves.
- Only God knows how many lives have been touched for eternity through this man’s faithful commitment to just handing out 10 gospel tract each day in George Street

➤ If we simply go by our feelings and make no firm plans or commitments to sharing our faith with others, invariably weeks and months will go by without us encouraging anyone to come to Christ.

In the book of Proverbs we read,

“Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint;
But happy is he who keeps the law.” **(Proverbs 29:18)**

➤ What regular outreach initiatives may God be putting on your heart to do in this season?

- A season for evangelism; A season for harvesting lost souls
- May I encourage you to wholeheartedly commit to what God may be putting on your heart to do AND SIMPLY MAKE PLANS TO SEE THOSE THINGS COMING PASS!

I will now conclude with one final thought;

- **God does not look at our ability. He will always anoint and empower us to do the things that He calls us to do**

➤ All God is looking for is our wholehearted availability

- Are we available to be used by Him to help see others come to Christ?
- If we are, He will use us in a great way for His glory!

In the book of Isaiah, we read the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying:

“Whom shall I send,
And who will go for Us?”

Then I said, ‘Here am I! Send me.’”

(Isaiah 6:8)

- May I encourage you also to take after the prophet Isaiah by responding to God's call upon your life and making the most of your life here on earth by having a mission focus so that one day you will hear the words from Jesus, "Well done my good and faithful servant"

- I will finish by sharing quickly about the life of a man who knew the value of every soul to God. His name was John Harper
 - John Harper was born to a pair of solid Christian parents on May the 29th, 1872

 - On the last Sunday of March 1886, when 13 years old, John Harper received Jesus as the Lord of his life

 - Four years later at the age of 17, John Harper began preaching in the streets of his village pouring out his soul to see lost people come to Christ

 - As John Harper's life unfolded he was consumed by a passion to read and to preach the Word of God

 - After five or six years of toiling on street corners preaching the gospel and working in a mill during the day, John Harper started his own church in September of 1896.

 - This church started with just 25 members and over the next 13 years grew to 500 members

- During this time John Harper got married but shortly after was widowed. However during this brief marriage God blessed him with a beautiful little girl named Nana.
- Ironically, John Harper almost drowned on three occasions
- When two and a half years of age, he almost drowned when he fell into a well but his mother resuscitated him
- At the age of 26 he was swept out to sea by a reverse current and barely survived
- And if this was not enough, at the age of 32 he faced death on a leaking ship in the Mediterranean.
- It was like God was preparing him for what would come next
- On the 14th of April 1912 the RMS Titanic was sailing swiftly on the bitterly cold ocean waters
- On board this ship were many rich people
- At 11.40 pm on that fateful night, an iceberg scraped the ships starboard side and ripping open six watertight air compartments
- The sea poured in
- On board the ship that night was John Harper and his much beloved six year old daughter Nana
- According to documented reports as soon as it became apparent the boat was about to sink, he immediately took his daughter to a lifeboat

- It is reasonable to assume that this widowed preacher could also have easily got on board this lifeboat and been saved
- However this thought never crossed John Harper's mind
- He bent down and kissed his precious little girl; looking into her eyes he told her that she would see him again someday.
- The flares going off in the dark sky reflected the tears on his face as he turned and headed towards the crowd of desperate humanity on the sinking ocean liner
- As the rear of the huge ship began to lurch upwards, John Harper made his way up the deck yelling, "Women, children and unsaved into the life boats."
- As the ship began to break in half many people dived into the icy waters. 1528 people went into the frigid waters.
- John Harper was seen swimming frantically to people in the water leading them to Christ before hypothermia became fatal
- John Harper swam up to one young man who had climbed up on a piece of debris
- John Harper between breaths said "Are you saved?" This young man replied no.
- Harper then tried to lead him to Christ only to have the young man who was in shock, reply no
- John Harper then took off his own life jacket and threw it to the young man

- A few minutes later John Harper swam back to this young man and led him to Christ
- Of the 1528 people who went into the icy waters that night only six survived. One of them was this young man
- Four years later, at a survivors meeting, this young man stood up in tears and recounted how John Harper had led him to Christ
- Mr Harper had tried to swim back to help others, yet because of the cold had become too weak to swim.
- HIS LAST WORDS BEFORE GOING UNDER IN THE FRIGID WATERS WERE, “**Believe on the Name of the Lord Jesus and you will be saved.**”