

The Potter's Christian Life Center

SERMON NOTES
with Pastor Greg Formey



Fulfilling God's Dream

Matthew 9:36-38

Sunday, April 17, 2016

In his book *The Purpose-Driven Church*, Rick Warren reports on a survey that found 89% of church members believe the church's purpose is to "take care of my needs and those of my family." Only 11% said, "The purpose of the church is to win the world for Jesus Christ."

Evangelism is one of the highest values in the church – and one of the least practiced, because it is not easy. Most believers don't have many (if any) non-Christian friends. We may talk a good game, but our actions speak louder than our words. Knowing God through Jesus Christ is the best and highest way to live, so we should ask God for strengthening courage and wisdom to live the Christian life before people and tell them the story of grace.

KNOW WHAT WE ARE UP AGAINST

Matthew 9:36-37

³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷He said to his disciples, "The harvest is great, but the workers are few.

A missionary (we are all missionaries) is extremely vulnerable to attack without the weapons of warfare supplied to us by God.

2 Corinthians 10:4

We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. ⁵ We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.

We do not get caught up in fighting the wrong fight.

Ephesians 6:12

For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

PRAY AND WORK

Matthew 9:38

³⁸So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields."

He does not want us to wait until later, but to make efforts with what is right before us.

John 4:35-38

³⁵You know the saying, 'Four months between planting and harvest.' But I say, wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest. ³⁶The harvesters are paid good wages, and the fruit they harvest is people brought to eternal life. What joy awaits both the planter and the harvester alike! ³⁷You know the saying, 'One plants and another harvests.' And it's true. ³⁸I sent you to harvest where you didn't plant; others had already done the work, and now you will get to gather the harvest."

TRUST IN HIS PROMISES

Jesus said, "**¹⁹Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations,* baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."** " We can be assured that the Lord will equip and empower us to do just that.

We can pray, work and give confidently toward the completion of His great commission knowing that whatever we invest will surely yield great eternal dividends. No bank can give guarantees that will beat the return we will get for investing in God's ventures. We can be confident that as we lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven, they will not only be waiting there for us there to be enjoyed for all eternity, but will be available to be drawn from here in our times.

Whenever Jesus gives a commandment He always provides a way and the means to accomplish it. Christ supplies us with the words of encouragement to concentrate on His kingdom priorities by expanding the quantity and quality of disciples in all 230 nations of the earth.

Philippians 4:19

And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus. ²⁰ Now all glory to God our Father forever and ever! Amen.

The great missionary, Hudson Taylor, who spent 51 years in China, found this to be true:
"God's will done in God's way will not lack God's support."