

Review: Praying for the lost

Important truths –We are disciples of Jesus

John 17:13–18 (NIV) ¹³ “I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. ¹⁴ I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. ¹⁵ My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.

1. The vision of our church – is God’s vision

- I have sent them just as you have sent me
- To reach the lost for Jesus one person at a time
- The Mission: **making biblical disciples** in relational environments
- I hope you will study through the notes here in your quiet time

Matthew 28:18–20, Ephesians 3:10–12

2. Our perspective now –God’s wrath is real – Hell is a real place of eternal existence

- What we deserved and what we have received by grace through faith
- We were lost – on our way to Hell
- Now we have relationship with God and a hope of eternal life in Christ
- What will happen to those who are not saved
- The wrath of God is deserved by all

Ephesians 2:1–10 (NIV) ¹ As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, **we were by nature deserving of wrath.** ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. ¹¹ Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)—¹² remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Philippians 3:17–21 (NIV) ¹⁷ Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. ¹⁸ For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

3. God’s love saves and redeems us so that we live differently

2 Corinthians 1:21–22 (NIV) ²¹ Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, ²² set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

A. God has delivered the light of His Word –to show us how to live with holiness and purpose

2 Timothy 3:14–17, 2 Timothy 1:10, Romans 12:1–2

B. The change in us encourages us and draws the attention of others

- My personal testimony

Revelation 12:10–11 (NIV) ¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. ¹¹ They **triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony**; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

4. God has revealed His purpose to us

- So what truths motivate our hearts to share with those around us?
- Our thankfulness for what God has done and promised to do for us
- Our understanding of what happens to those who don't know God

Romans 10:13–15, 2 Corinthians 5:17–20

So how shall we live? This is a new year –

- We hold tightly to our own testimony – abiding and remembering
- We are praying for those we know who don't know Jesus
- We are encouraging those who have accepted Jesus because the enemy prowls
- In word and in action we bring glory to God
- Being one – how and where?
- We love one another – in unity for His cause
- We love others well and share why

John 17:20–23, 1 Peter 3:13–15, 1 Peter 2:12



Sample Small Group Questions
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