



LIFE AS MISSION
The Urgency of the Mission
Week 10

Opening prayer

Prayer for the persecuted church: Israel

Prayer for a local church:

This morning we pray for our brother Dave Dick and Canyon Lake Community Church.

Closing prayer

Introduction:

What was the last thing you did some with urgency? Maybe it was buying your wife flowers? On second thought, that's a bad

example. If buying your wife flowers is an urgent issue, it's probably too late. Maybe it was getting the car fixed and you've been putting it off because of the cost. Maybe it was paying a bill?

- Taawila Invoice

How about the gospel? Do you ever think of the mission of the gospel with urgency? The mission of making Christ known?

And don't make the mistake of thinking of the **Great Commission** as simply giving information to someone.

Here's how to think of the mission of the gospel. Do you have this growing conviction that you need to initiate a friendship with someone who doesn't know Christ? That's all urgency is — a growing conviction that just keeps getting stronger. You know, like the conviction that you need to eat better. You ever experience that? It's an urgency that grows.

- I read that 1 soda is equal to 6 donuts. That's a wake-up call. Now whenever I crave a soda, I just eat 6 donuts.

The point is, it is our mission as Christians to befriend people who do not know Christ and help them understand why we see the world the way we do and to help them understand there are not alternative realities in this world.

As Albert Mohler has said, worldviews are never just about worldviews. Worldviews are

always about who and what we worship. In one sense, no one is really secular because everyone has a devotion to something.

- There are over 120 million secular undisciplined people in the United States.**
- The United States is the largest mission field in the Western hemisphere.**
- The U.S. is the fifth largest mission field in the world.**

All that to say, the United States is not a Christian nation. It is a lost nation. And we are

exiles in a land that does not understand the worldview of historic Christianity.

The point of urgency is this, we have a limited amount of time on this earth to do that. Therefore, there is an urgency to the mission of making Christ known.

And let me put this out there plainly. Part of the urgency of the mission is that people who do not know Christ will suffer eternal condemnation. Maybe the concept of hell troubles you, but if you want a God without

wrath then you want a God who tolerates the most unspeakable evil.

But the emphasis today is simply on the urgency of the mission. Our text today comes from the author who wrote to exiled Christians in his time, the Apostle Peter.

2 Peter 3:9

⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward

**you, not wishing that any should perish,
but that all should reach repentance.**

1. God fulfills His promises in His timing.

Don't we all know people we love who we want to come to know Christ? And yet it seems they're not coming to know Christ. Maybe they never will, but we don't know. Maybe you're someone's loved one or friend who doesn't know Christ. Maybe you're that person I'm speaking of.

This verse is telling us that God has a timing for the universe and for our lives that we do not know about, but it's not because He's unwilling to fulfill His promises. But the fact that God does things in His timing should not take away from the urgency of befriending people who do not know Christ.

Peter tells us why God's timing seems behind to us.

2 Peter 3:9

⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

2. God is patience toward us.

Peter seems to have the idea that some of the Christians he's writing to may not be saved yet. This means they're not Christians yet, but they think they are Christians. That's bad news for some people. That's why there's an

urgency to the gospel, because some people who think they're Christians are not really Christians. God's patience should be a motivator, not an apathy maker.

- **Cultural Christianity/Cultural Atheism**

The good news is that God is patience and desires none to perish.

2 Peter 3:9

9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

3. God wants all to reach repentance.

That presents us with the urgency. Look at how many people there are in the world. There are a lot of people to reach and God wants us to reach them.

God wants all people to be saved, but all people do not get saved, so in the grid of an all-powerful God this presents us with some thorny theological issues.

But that shouldn't diminish our urgency in making the gospel known.

Now, the temptation is to skip right over the thorny issues. That's not our way here, so keeping in mind the point is urgency, let's touch on the thorny issues.

If God doesn't want any to perish, but all to come to repentance, then why doesn't everyone repent? Or we can simply ask, "Why doesn't God save everyone?"

That's an easier question to answer, in my opinion. Whatever your theological grid, God doesn't save everyone. In the two theological camps, generally speaking, one emphasizes human freewill and one emphasizes the sovereignty of God. Now, Scriptures speaks of both, so we must strive for a biblical view, not a comfortable view or an overly simplistic

view. And both viewpoints can be oversimplified.

For instance, human freewill alone doesn't answer the issue, because even in that theological grid, God is the One who sovereignly decided to risk the salvation of humanity by putting the choice in our hands. So, ultimately, even in that grid, it was by God's sovereign design that not everyone gets saved. So, we're back to square one.

The error in the other grid is overemphasizing the sovereignty of God to the point that all urgency in making the gospel known is removed, because God handles it all. But how does He handle it all — through us. We're the means God uses to make the gospel known.

Now, a biblical reason as to why God doesn't save everyone is that salvation is about the glory of God, first and foremost. Salvation is not first and foremost about saving humanity. It's about how in saving humanity God is glorified. Now, that thinking doesn't set right

with most of us because we are anthropocentric (man-centered) in our thinking. We think everything's about us and should be about us when it's just not.

So, how is God glorified in salvation? First, He shows He's righteous and just and doesn't let anyone get away with it.

Second, He shows us He's so loving that He would send His Son to take the punishment that we deserved.

Both aspects of the gospel glorify God — His just judgment and His gracious redemption in Christ. You can't have just judgment without judging someone. Humanity is judged justly and in that just judgment we are justly condemned. Thus, the glory in our salvation, because it's something we do not deserve.

So, we can have the theological debate, but the question remains, "What are you doing about it?" If God wants everyone to repent and to come to a knowledge of the truth, you can either spend your time debating what it all

means or you can do something about it by looking for ways to strategically make the gospel known.

That's what this whole series is about — developing the mentality that this is what Christian living is about, how together we can look for ways to become a Great Commission church by being a hospitable people and a people who befriend nonChristians.

The difference between a dying church and a growing church is one word — **INVITE!**

The point is this — no matter where you land theologically on this issue — are you taking the gospel to people with urgency?

4. People's lives depend upon the gospel.

2 Peter 3:10

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be

burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

Christ will return and He will bring His judgment seat with Him. That's the urgency the Apostle Peter presented to the early church. But even if the return of Christ doesn't come as soon as we think it should, that doesn't diminish the urgency of making the gospel known, because every person will face death, some to eternal glory and some to eternal judgment.

GOSPEL REMINDER: The gospel is a promise that God has blessed you because of Christ alone.

Great Commission ACTION STEP: It has been said that the gospel is a summons. It calls people to repent and believe. Seek an opportunity this week where you not only share the gospel, but tell someone what they must do in response to it — repent and believe.