

BEING *GOD'S* REACHER

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COC

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Week 1 - God's Reacher

I. **WHEN I MISDIAGNOSE SOMETHING, WHAT I "THINK I UNDERSTAND" IS, IN FACT, CREATING FOR ME AN "ALTERNATIVE REALITY" BY THE OPINIONS I FORM ABOUT THE THING THAT I THINK I KNOW...**

A. Today, we must **back up, re-group, & reconcile** the fact that we must **"re-learn" how to reach people for Christ** —

1. **Why?** We are *called* to be **REACHERS!**

2. And, to do that we have to **properly diagnose *where* we are** —

3. **America is no longer a Christian Nation, but a secular one** —

a. we ***now* live in a Post-Christian Western world** —

- B. To REACH people, we must understand the culture in which these people live —
- C. Our society is changing, the world is changing, & all of it is changing very, very fast —
- D. One of the shifts we see happening in the western world is:
1. **First** - The mentality (worldview) & behavior of people in the West has shifted from that of the highest good to individual freedom & happiness.
 - a. So culturally, we've moved away from kind of class struggles of the 50s & 60s & politics that was the main thing then, to now, moving to the ultimate thing that is the journey into "self" as the highest priority —
 - b. We've moved away from theology & philosophy to psychology.

c. Now, it's all about us!

d. It is what one writer has said, *"it's the therapeutic quest to discover individual fulfillment."*

e. So, what's happened is not the eradication of *God* from the Western mind, but the enthroning of "Self" as the greatest authority!

f. As one writer said, *"We're all about us!"*

g. It used to be that the **Bible** would set our ethics: what *we thought*, *how we behaved*, & *what we valued* — but those have been replaced by my experiences, my desires, my preferences, my feelings —

h. And so today, we have people who say things like: *"I am who I feel myself to be. And because I've been married for 10 years & that has changed, that must*

mean we should separate because my feelings are saying this!"

- i. As a result, we've watched our societal divorce rate skyrocket exponentially —
2. People now say things like: ***I believe in God, but I don't go to church.***
3. I like to just hang out with my friends.
4. **Martin Buber**, a philosopher, wrote **40 years ago**: *"the new religion is going to be personal development & the preference of spirituality over religion."*
 - a. *It's the elevation of self over God. It tries to keep the Christian values that it deems good, like: Morality, Equality, & Justice. It wants to hold on to those things, but it wants to take away the any costs & commitments & restraints of Christianity."*
 - b. This **new Religion of Self** leads people to *believe* that **they can have their cake & eat it too.**

II. THIS LAST YEAR, WE WATCHED IN HORROR THE REPORTS COMING OUT OF SOUTH FLORIDA —

A. The South Tower of t/ *Champlain Condos* had collapsed in the dead of night!

1. Burying scores of people under tons of concrete — most dying in their sleep, sadly unaware of impending doom —

B. It's been well-documented now that there had been signs, there had been warnings, there had been alerts given, declaring that beneath the critical parts of the high-rise Condo Tower there had been a seepage of water that was weakening the integrity of the building.

C. So it is with our New Millennium —

1. our trembling 21st Century —

2. The *Church* is to carry the *burden of travail* for the *foundations* of our culture!

3. A culture whose morality has suffered grave compromise & whose foundations have been eroded —

D. The **Psalmist** would lament, *"For look, the wicked are bending their bow; they take aim with their arrow on the string to shoot in the darkness at the upright in the heart. If the foundations [of a godly society] are destroyed, what can the righteous do?"*

Psalm 11:2-3

E. With our Cities burning —

1. Our Politicians speak with **mouths of deceit**, telling constituents they desire peace, all while having both hands filled with treason & tyranny —
2. Runaway Inflation rendering Economic Instability,
3. Social Upheaval, &
4. Skyrocketing Crime —

a. all of it screams **BECAUSE OF THE TIMES**...

b. because of our nation's **Broken Foundations** —

III. **JUST AS DAVID SAID TO ELIAB, SO I SAY TODAY, "IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?"** I Samuel 17:29

A. **"Is there not a cause"** when the world is awash in the terrors of a **tsunami of crisis**

B. **"Is there not a cause"** when professing Christians abandon their faith & dismiss their faithfulness —

C. **"Is there not a cause"** when **God's** people are no longer concerned for the plight of **a lost & dying world** —

D. **"Is there not a cause"** when Christians slumber in **Laodicea** — half-asleep —

E. **"Is there not a cause"** when Christians accept a **loss of zeal** & a **betrayers heart** in the **name of personal safety** —

F. **"Is there not a cause"** when:

1. the work for **God** wanes,
2. when the people of **God** are weary,
3. when the men & women of **God** are **listless** in their preaching,
 - a. **faithless** in their devotions,
 - b. **fruitless** in their work, &
 - c. **more concerned** with their **social image** than they are with **soul-winning** —

G. **"This Cause"** is the **Great Burden of our Time** —

H. In this **Epochal Hour** checkered with the **Forerunners of the Tribulation** — it is **God's People** who are **Privileged** to be **His called & chosen**, to be **His "new creation"** representatives —

1. ***We are His people*** commissioned with His holy charge — ***"go into all the world"*** **telling, announcing, declaring, proclaiming** to a broken world collapsing under the weight of its ***sin*** that ***Jesus is Building His Church*** —

I. We are the People who are **NOT helpless** -

1. Our World is **NOT hopeless** —

J. But IF we choose to keep silent that all hope will be lost —

K. *Aleksandr Solzhenistyn* wrote: "In keeping silent about evil, in burying it so deep within us that no sign of it appears on the surface, we are implanting it, & it will rise up a thousandfold in the future."

L. *Isaiah* declared, ***"He saw that there was no man, And was amazed that there was no one to intercede*** [on behalf of truth & right];" **Isaiah 59:16 AMP**

M. Habakkuk fervently prayed, **"O Lord, revive Your work in the midst of the years"** Hab. 3:2

N. The Prophets of old consistently **lifted up their voices & cried aloud**... against the backslidings of Israel & their comingling, their mixing, their merger with pagan worshippers —

1. So Habakkuk cried aloud, **"O Lord, revive Your Work"** —

a. It's the only way to keep the people safe..is to **revive** them —

O. What our world needs to today is not more money or ease; we need an old-fashioned Holy Spirit falling, fire-baptizing, heart-reviving **Outpouring of the Holy Ghost** just as we read about in Acts 2 —

1. Away with any *isms, schisms, or ologies* — the devil has transformed himself into

an *angel of light* who works tirelessly to deceive & destroy every living soul —

2. But it is the Church that is **"Rising Up"** with white-hot Conviction that we are charging into our city streets, into our by-ways & hiways; into our marketplaces & learning spaces to **REACH** for **ONE** —
3. It's all about the ONE ———
4. Everyone win ONE ———
5. **Going forth bearing the precious seeds of redemption with Prayer & Fasting** —
 - a. telling all who will listen, **"Come! Come Now"** —
 - b. telling them, **"Christ has been crucified & buried, but He rose again"** defeating death & hell forever, so that **we** (mankind) could be freed —

IV. IF OUR NATION IS TO EXPERIENCE A GREAT SPIRITUAL AWAKENING -

- A. It will be the result of the **Church** getting stirred up, standing up, & reaching up —
- B. shout "**I AM A REACHER**"
- C. The **Promises** of **God** are in the PRESENT tense —
1. We can have it **REVIVAL & AWAKENING** now —
- D. Right now — when men are staggering & reeling in their sins —
1. **When** our babies are being sold to human traffickers —
 2. **When** our children are being sacrificed on the altars of our modern Molech's —
 3. **When** our girls are convinced that they must sell their virginity for a moment of tiktok fame —
 - a. When they're led to believe that the only way to be accepted is to be Overperfumed & Underdressed —

4. When our **Nation** is **Collapsing** under the weight of **immorality** & its **foundations** are **broken by its corruption** — we are not waiting on **God**, **God is waiting on His people** —

E. The **Church of Jesus Christ** was never intended to be our **Amusement** & **Entertainment** option —

1. **Jesus** intends for **His Church** to be a **United Force of Praying People** who are prophecying the **Will of God** & are zealous to do it —

F. The Church must **REACH** for the **Lost** with such **fervor** & **passion** & **zeal**, that —

1. the **drunkard** becomes sober —

2. the **thief** steals no more —

3. the **atheist** becomes a born-again believer -

4. the **disgraced** find love & new life —

G. Until this **God-forsaking**, **Jesus-hating**, & **Lord-damning** world becomes filled with **Gospel Peace**, **Benediction**, & **Blessing** —

H. **Revival** — (shout it) **Revival** — **REACH**

1. **Colleges observe Commencements**, & what **commencements are to colleges**, **SOUL WINNING** is to the **Church** —

2. **What health is to an Individual**, **SOUL WINNING** is to the **Church** —

3. **What education is to your children**, **SOUL WINNING** is to the **Church** —

I. The **Mission** of the **Church** is to **preach Jesus so clear & His Love so grand**, that **Hell will blush with sin's disgust & sinners will flee to forsake their iniquities**

J. The Future is HERE & it's solely dependent upon your **willingness** to **get into the harvest field** & **stretch to REACH** —

K. Our work is **not** done —

1. Our **faith** is **not** **a vain hope**, but **sure hope**

2. Our **commission** is not born out of wishful thinking, but out of our certainty of who God is & **who He has called us to be** — **REACHERS!**
3. It is said that we only declare what we have faith for — we will only become **God's REACHER** when we settle the question: WHO have we made our LORD?

Proverbs 11:30 says, ***"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; & he that wins souls is wise."***

Luke 14:23 says, ***"And the Lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways & hedges, & compel them to come in, that My house may be filled."***

Luke 15:10 tells us, ***"Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."***

★ **IT'S ALL ABOUT THE ONE - REACH FOR THEM**