

2-27-2022, COTR Texarkana

Title: The Good News Is to Be Shared

Purpose: Provoke people share their faith with as many as possible and go on a short-term mission's trip in obedience to the Great Commission.

Truth for Today: Our mission is to let the whole world know about Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world.

Text: Acts 16:31, Mark 16:15

Topic: Evangelism, Missions, Great Commission, Soulwinning

Series Title: The Big 10...the Path to Spiritual Maturity

Series Purpose: Provoke people to actively pursue spiritual maturity by applying the Big 10 causes for spiritual growth.

Mission Possible

- I. Intro. (1) Ushers hand out Big 10 flyer. (2) Tx voting info <20% (3) Trucker's flyer
 - A. Review series, The Big 10, the Path to Spiritual Maturity. It's about the power of daily disciplines and experiences proven to produce spiritual maturity. [Eph. 4:15 (NIV) Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will **grow** to become in every respect the **mature body** of him who is the head, that is, Christ.] Spiritual growth and maturity are the goal of the Christian life. The Big 10 is the prescription for spiritual growth. Review flyer.
 - B. Picture Today we'll talk about #8 and #10, sharing our faith and going on a short-term mission trip. Music Mission Impossible Christians have a mission and it's not impossible, it's possible! Our mission is to do everything we can to reach people with the Good News about Jesus Christ before it's eternally too late!
 - C. Title: Mission Possible
 - D. Truth for Today: Our mission is to let the whole world know about Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world.
- II. Why is sharing our faith in Jesus Christ so important?
 - A. John Harper on the Titanic, Picture^{2,3} As passengers danced in the ballroom, John Harper put his daughter to bed and read his devotions as he did every night. At 11:40pm, the Titanic struck an iceberg. It wasn't until the ship's crew sent up a series of distress flares that passengers realized the seriousness of their situation. Then chaos ensued. But **John Harper's response left an historic example of courage and faith.** Harper awakened his daughter and wrapped her in a blanket before carrying her up to the deck. There he kissed her good-bye and handed her to a crewman who put her into lifeboat 11. Harper knew he

would never see his daughter again. From a survivor we learn that he was calling out, “**Women and children and unsaved people into the lifeboats.**” He understood that there was a more important thing than surviving that terrible disaster. **He understood that there were those who were unprepared to face eternity. Harper focused on his God-given purpose.** Survivors reported seeing him on the upper deck on his knees, surrounded by terrified passengers, **praying for their salvation.** At 2:40am, the Titanic disappeared in the ocean leaving over 1000 people fighting for their lives in the icy water. He managed to find a piece of floating wreckage to hold onto. Quickly **he swam to every person he could find, urging those about him to put their faith in Jesus Christ.** John Harper’s **goal of winning people to Jesus Christ** became more vital. In the water, John Harper was speaking to as many people as possible. His question was, “**Are you saved?**” And if they weren’t saved **he explained the Christian Gospel.** One person remembered, “I am a survivor of the Titanic. I was one of only six people out of 1,517 to be pulled from the icy waters. Like hundreds around me, I found myself struggling in the cold, dark waters. The wail of the perishing was ringing in my ears when there floated by me a man who called to me, ‘**Is your soul saved?**’ Then I heard him call out to others as he sank beneath the waters. There, alone in the night, **I cried to Christ to save me. I am John Harper’s last convert.**”¹

1. Why didn’t John Harper try to get in a lifeboat with his little girl? What motivated him to spend the last few minutes of his life telling people about Jesus? It’s because he knew (1) heaven and hell are real, (2) everyone will spend eternity somewhere, (3) salvation is only possible by believing in Jesus Christ. [Acts 16:31 (ESV)...“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved...]
 2. Christians are called to be rescuers from sin, e.g., Lady Bryce’s Heimlich. She was choking so I acted. I could no more ignore her than ignore my neighbor if his house on fire. Shouldn’t we be more concerned about the eternal destiny of a soul
- B. What does the Bible teach about Christians sharing the Good News about Jesus?
1. #1, Jesus gave us a Great Commission to reach the world. After the resurrection, Jesus told His followers, [Mark 16:15 (NLT)...“Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.] This means our family, our friends, our neighbors and co-workers, and strangers in our city, our nation and the world.
 2. #2, God has given us this task of reconciling people to him, [2 Cor. 5:17–21 (NLT)...anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person....18...And

God has given us this task of reconciling people to him...20 So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we **plead, "Come back to God!"** 21 For God made Christ...to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made **right with God through Christ.**]

- a. Every day, most people get up and do their job. Spiritually, we have been given a job to reach people for Christ.
3. #3, We must be willing to do whatever it takes to reach people for Christ, [1 Cor. 9:19–23 (NLT) Even though I am **a free man** with no master, **I have become a slave to all people to bring many to Christ.** 20 When I was with the Jews, **I lived like a Jew to bring the Jews to Christ...** 21 When I am with the Gentiles who do not follow the Jewish law, I too live apart from that law **so I can bring them to Christ...** 22 When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, **for I want to bring the weak to Christ.** Yes, **I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some.**
 - a. Everything means sharing our testimony, inviting people to church, giving money to mission projects, doing community outreach, etc.
4. #4, We need the right attitude in sharing the gospel, [2 Tim. 2:23–26 (NLT)...**don't get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights.** 24 A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must **be kind to everyone...**and **be patient with difficult people.** 25 Gently instruct those who oppose the **truth. Perhaps God will change those people's hearts,** and they will learn the **truth.** 26 **Then they will come to their senses and escape from the devil's trap.** For they have been held captive by him to do whatever he wants.]
 - a. Boldness and love for people should motivate us as we proclaim biblical truth and witness for Christ, not social media slander or an arrogant judgmental attitude. Christians who speak the truth in love aren't haters but love people.
 - b. We are in a spiritual war with satan for the souls of people. Satan has deceived/ blinded people and it is our job to bring them truth to save their soul
5. #5, World evangelism is key to the 2nd coming of Christ and end of the world, [Mt. 24:14 (NLT) **the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come.**]
 - a. World events will one day climax in the end of the world as we know it. Mt. 24 signs are everywhere; Russia's invasion of Ukraine may be a

strategic part. However, I'm not concerned about world events I can't control, I'm focused on world evangelism I can control.

C. Practical advice on how to share our faith.

1. Share your testimony of how Jesus changed your life with whoever will listen. People can argue religion, but no one can argue with a changed life.
2. Picture, Pass out Church Invite cards wherever you go. If we invite people to church, they may encounter God. The plan of salvation is on back of the card.

III. Go on a short-term mission's trip and serve Christians in the 3rd world

A. Picture Value #2 Inside Look. One of the best ways I know to get a vision for world evangelism is to take a short-term mission's trip.

B. On a mission's trip, we help people, but the greatest value is what the trip can do for us. The experience will change our outlook on how we live life and make us a better Christian. Video Mary Mayo; my 1st trip, Chiapas, Mayan Indians, barefoot worship

1. One of the defining marks of COTR is our commitment to world evangelism. Picture page 22,23 Inside Look. We set aside 13% of your tithe in an outreach fund. This plus designated mission's giving was almost \$800k last year to reach people in Texarkana and around the world for Christ. Our goal is \$1 million.

C. There are several ways you can be a part of taking the gospel to the world:

1. Giving your tithe and designate support for missionaries and projects.
2. Giving to buy Bibles, Picture app/ box
3. Go on a short-term mission's trip: LaNell/ Travis/ Grants trips in 2022. India maybe Thailand, dig water wells in Mexico, Indian reservation, 2 or 3 trips to Mexico for training and church construction. Get your passport now!

IV. Conclusion

A. John Harper... From a survivor we learn that John Harper was calling out, **“Women and children and unsaved people into the lifeboats.” He understood that there were those who were unprepared to face eternity.** It's the same today and Our mission, should we choose to accept, is to reach as many as possible before it's eternally too late.

B. I close with this question; will you answer His call to win souls like John harper did? [Mt 9:36–38 (NIV) When he (*Jesus*) saw the crowds, he had compassion on them...37 Then he said...“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out **workers into his harvest field.**”]

V. Response

A. Prayer

B. Souls

VI. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

1. <https://graceonlinelibrary.org/biographies/john-harper-hero-of-the-titanic/>
2. https://duckduckgo.com/?q=picture+titanic+sinking&iax=images&ia=images&iai=http%3A%2F%2Fthemillenniumreport.com%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2017%2F11%2Ftitanic_sinking_tw.jpg Black and White picture
3. <https://duckduckgo.com/?q=picture+john+harper+titanic&iax=images&ia=images&iai=https%3A%2F%2Fi.pinimg.com%2F736x%2Fe9%2F3a%2F81%2Fe93a81ce514c4b8ebaa3782ae2c9a3f7--titanic-ship-real-titanic.jpg> Black and White picture of Harper and daughter