

# sermon study summary

## Living Missionally

Speaker: Pastor Henry Schorr

(Vision Weekend)

April 29 / 30, 2023

As many of you know, once a year I speak to our 'Church family' about the '**vision and state of the year**', focusing on what God has been doing in and through us as a church, current challenges, issues, and where we believe God is leading us. The Biblical precedent for this is found in Chapters 2 and 3 of Revelation, where Jesus addressed the 7 churches of ancient Asia (modern Turkey).

Given what's happening in our nation and world these past few years, interest in the 'end times' has skyrocketed; people, inevitably, wonder if this is 'the beginning of the end'. Despite many television preachers predicting they know how events leading up to Christ's return will play out, the **only thing** we know for **sure** is that Jesus IS returning! The rest is speculation, and although we have numerous signs in Scripture about Christ's return, we shouldn't waste time contemplating specifics. We must remain vigilant and prepared to meet Him, either on His return or when we die.

Even if Christ doesn't return for many years, we are reminded (like the certainty of death) that **nobody** is guaranteed to be alive tomorrow. As God's chosen representatives on earth, we are required to serve Him by bringing non-believers to Christ so they see His goodness, love and mercy in all aspects of our lives. Jesus said to His disciples, '**As the Father has sent me, so send I – you!**' God wants **everyone** to be saved, and rejoices when His spiritually '*lost kids*' return to Him – and this is our mission as a Church. Ultimately, the only things that matter are: where YOU stand with God, and where OTHERS stand with Him.

We, as a Church, are called to introduce people to Jesus, helping them become His devoted followers. However, many of us struggle because we think we don't know enough or are incapable of doing this. However, firstly, Jesus assures us that **He** will be with us as we seek to live missionally; secondly, this message is directed to us, not only as individuals, but as a church. The card you were given this weekend, titled '*Steps to Missional Living*' (see link on back page) has practical, Biblically based, suggestions for spreading the Word (you don't need a degree in Theology). Identify 'a person of peace', a friend, a neighbour/colleague, etc. who is **not** a Christian; **pray** for them **first**, because **ONLY GOD** can change them. Spend time with them and **care** for them. **Share** your story of how Christ has impacted your life (planting seeds of truth) and revealing that Christians are 'normal' and face similar issues in life. Invite them to an event of fellowship at Church where they meet others or listen and participate in events. Your next step is to be their spiritual coach, helping them to become fully devoted followers of Christ and inviting them to our services.

The final step is '**servicing**'. As their faith matures, they will want to serve where God calls them; you can support them through prayer and encouragement. As each 'person of peace' comes to Christ, encourage them to bring others to Him. Serving God takes conviction and sacrifice. Nothing **Glorifies God more** than when you and family/friends pursue Jesus and the mission HE has called you to, with all your heart, soul and mind, and you will be **completely fulfilled**. May it be so, to the glory of God and for the sake of our world that **desperately needs the Jesus we know and love!**

# sermon study guide

## IN – PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. What hobby or interest do you have that you would like to learn more about?
2. Where is your place to get together with people?

## UP – PURSUE GOD

Read Mark 13:33-36.

3. What practical things can we do to be on guard, be alert, and keep watch for Christ's return? What activities would you put in the category of "sleeping"?

Read Luke 19:10, 1 Tim 2:4, John 20:21 and Matt 28:18-20.

4. What is Jesus' mandate for us and why? How do Jesus' promises help you actively pass on the Good News of Christ?

## OUT – PURSUE MISSION

5. Pastor Henry suggested that you start "missional living" by focusing on a "person of peace." How do you know if someone is a person of peace? Identify and pray as a group for the person of peace in your life.
6. What can be your next step for this person – pray, care, share, and invite? Then how can you help them become fully devoted followers of Jesus?

### **For Personal Reflection / Prayer:**

*You don't need a Bible school degree to introduce people to Jesus. All you need is a heart for people and a passion to see them come to Christ. Focus on those who don't reject you because of your faith. Develop a genuine friendship with them, pray for them, care for them, and include them in your life. Pray and watch for opportunities to share your testimony and plant seeds of truth.*

### ***THE WORD (NIV)***

#### **Matthew 13:33-36**

<sup>33</sup>Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. <sup>34</sup>It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

<sup>35</sup>"Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. <sup>36</sup>If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping.

#### **Matthew 28: 18-20**

<sup>18</sup>Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

#### **[Steps to Missional Living card](#)**

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