

**DEVOTED**  
*"Share Him"*  
May 18, 2025

**INTRO.:** We have been very busy over the last several months with several significant family events. We have had a son graduate from basic training and Advanced Infantry Training with the United States Army. We have had a son get married to a wonderful girl who loves the Lord. Brenda had a wonderful visit with her mom in upstate New York. A big thank you to Pastor John preaching this past Sunday so we could attend the dedication of one of our grandsons in the Poconos and spend Mother's Day with some of our family. Then, this past Monday we had a grandson born to one of our other sons and daughter-in-law. We are very happy to share these events as they are good news and answers to prayer. I know that both Brenda and I have pictures if you'd like to see them. This morning, as we conclude our **DEVOTED** series, we are looking at our need to *Share Him*. That is, to share with others the best news ever, that Jesus Christ, God the Son, came to earth to live, die, and rise again for our sins. This is called the "*gospel*" in the Scriptures and literally means "*good news*." When someone comes to know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord that changes where they will spend eternity and how they live their lives here on earth. The Bible refers to those two things as eternal life and abundant life. For this to happen God took the first step in sending His one and only Son, Jesus Christ, to pay the penalty for our sins. We read in the Bible that we were dead in our sins, separated from God, without hope, and facing the eternal judgment of God. But we also read:

**Romans 5:6–8** You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. **7** Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. **8** But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Because of what He has done for us and the promise of the gospel we have great reason and motivation to "*Share Him*." This is not out of guilt, but out of gratefulness, love for Him and others, and a sense of urgency of the message. We will look at four things this morning: **RECOGNIZE; REMEMBER; BE READY; and RELY ON GOD.** We're going to look at a different passage for each of these points.

**RECOGNIZE**

What is it that we need to recognize? We're going to begin by looking at a passage that is most often highlighted in church during the Christmas season, the arrival of Jesus Christ. (page 1591 in pew Bible)

**Luke 2:8–12** And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. **9** An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. **11** Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. **12** This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

The angel of the Lord appeared to them and what was their response? They were terrified! It literally means that they feared a great fear (a "mega" fear). The angel assured them they didn't need to be afraid. Why didn't they need to fear?

He was bringing them good news. This is a form of the word, "gospel," and indicates an announcement of this good news. One of the things I want to zero in on is the answer to this question. "To whom is this good news directed?" Going back to the news of the birth of our grandson. This is great news for Brenda and me, as well as the rest of our family. The people we know would agree it's good news but not at the same level as us. What does the angel say concerning this good news?

*"I bring you good news of **GREAT JOY** that shall be for all the people."*

"What greater joy could there be than the realization and wholehearted acceptance of the fact that God himself, through the sacrifice of His one and only Son, had brought about the solution of the world's greatest problem, that of sin?" William Hendriksen

*"I bring you good news of great joy that shall be for **ALL** the people."*

This good news is for whom? It is for all the people! It is a message that is equally important to everyone: to the rich, poor, man, woman, and child. It is for every nationality, every race, every level of education and even shepherds.

*Today in the town of David a **SAVIOR** has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.*

Who needs a Savior? Every person who has ever been born, except Jesus Christ, the actual Savior.

**Luke 19:10** For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”

**1 Timothy 1:15** Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.

*Today in the town of David a Savior has been born **TO YOU**; he is Christ the Lord.*

Yes, even to this group of shepherds. Yes, even to you and me.! The invitation is open! Have you responded to the invitation? We just received an invitation to a graduation party. What do you think was included in the invitation? RSVP

We see this invitation recorded in John’s gospel, along with the consequences if it is rejected, or even, just ignored.

**John 3:16–18** “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. **17** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. **18** Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. (page 1650 in the pew Bible)

The Apostle John clearly points out that the invitation is open to ALL, but he also points out that there are only two options. Those who reject or ignore the invitation remain under God’s judgment. We need to recognize the invitation and that there are only two options. One option is to come to faith in Christ, have your sins forgiven, and spend eternity with the Lord. The other option is to not believe, and not have your sins forgiven, spending eternity separated from God under His judgment, in a place of everlasting torment called hell. Secondly, we need to:

### **REMEMBER**

What do we need to remember? Let’s look at what the Lord Jesus says in Matthew 28.

**Matthew 28:16–20** (page 1550 in the pew Bible)

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. **17** When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. **18** Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** 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, **20** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Jesus gave the disciples a mission. The eleven went where Jesus had told them to go, to a mountain in Galilee. When they saw Jesus they responded in worship, but some doubted. Jesus makes an important statement before He gives them any direction.

**Matthew 28:18** Then Jesus came to them and said, “**ALL** authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Jesus has the right to this authority as well as the ability to carry it out. What region does His authority cover? He has authority in heaven and on earth which I believe covers it.

How many here have an older brother or sister? Have they ever told you what to do? Have you ever responded with, “You can’t tell me what to do.”? Jesus has the power and authority to tell us what to do! This sets up what He says next.

**Matthew 28:19-20a** 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, **20** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you....

“**Therefore:**”(because of what Jesus has just said, concerning His authority, as was recorded in verse 18)

“**Therefore go:**” literally, while you are going. Jesus assumed that those who had the greatest news ever would be pursuing those who had not yet come to faith.

“**Therefore go and make disciples:**” this is a command. Believers are not called to get people to just recite a prayer. Our goal needs to be to make disciples: committed followers of Jesus Christ.

“**Therefore go and make disciples of all nations:**” this message is to be shared with all nations. This tells me the job hasn’t been finished.

“**Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them:**” The word, “baptizing,” is a present tense participle. Who is supposed to be baptized? This is to include every believer. It isn’t a requirement to become a Christian but once

someone has become a Christian this a step in obedience. Baptism is a public proclamation of one's faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

*"teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."* The word, "teaching" is a present tense participle. Jesus can tell us this because He is God the Son with all power and authority in heaven and on earth having been given to Him.

The key to believers doing what Jesus has said is in the last words of Matthew's gospel.

*"And surely I am with you, to the very end of the age."* It is literally, I, I am," which is for emphasis. We are able to do this because He goes with us. The Holy Spirit resides in every believer and because of this we share the message of the gospel with confidence.

Why does every believer need to share the message of the gospel? We need to recognize it is a message for everyone and there are only two options. We need to remember this is the mission Jesus gave to every one of His followers.

**Romans 10:9–15** That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. **10** For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. **11** As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." **12** For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, **13** for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." **14** How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? **15** And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

So, who is going to tell them about Jesus? We need to:

### **BE READY**

If you and I are going to "*Share Him*" with others we need to be ready. Every believer needs to be able to verbalize the gospel.

**1 Peter 3:13–16** Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? **14** But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened." **15** But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, **16** keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. (page 1890 in the pew Bible)

Can you clearly articulate the gospel? What are truths that people need to understand if they are to come to faith in Christ?

\*We are all sinners

**Romans 3:10** As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one;

**Romans 3:23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

\*There are consequences for our sin

**Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

\*That Jesus Christ died for us

**Romans 5:8** But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

\*How one needs to respond

**Romans 10:9–10** That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. **10** For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

**Romans 10:13** for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Not only do we need to be able to verbalize the gospel, we also need to live the gospel. Our testimony includes both what we say and how we live.

**Matthew 5:14–16** “You are (present tense) the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. **15** Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. **16** In the same way, let your light shine (command) before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. (page 1501 in the pew Bible)

We are to live in a way that brings honor and glory to God, pointing people to Jesus. Our lives should cause people to ask, “Why do they act like that?”

We need to recognize the invitation is open to all and there are only two options. Life is short and eternity is long! We need to remember that God has given us a mission to make disciples. We need to be ready to share Him with our words and our lives. Finally, we need to:

### **RELY ON GOD**

What do I mean by this? What needs to happen for someone to come to faith in Christ we can’t do.

**John 16:7–11** But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. **8** When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: **9** in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; **10** in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; **11** and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. (page 1678 I the pew Bible)

What is the ministry of the Holy Spirit? He convicts the world of sin and judgment. We cannot save anybody! As I mentioned earlier, apart from Christ, every person is dead in their sins and totally unable to save themselves. Before anybody can be saved, they have to recognize that they are lost.

So, what should our request be for people who have yet to come to faith in Christ? We need to ask the Holy Spirit to work in their lives, convicting them of sin and the need of the Savior.

**2 Corinthians 4:4** The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Am I willing to engage in the battle for the souls of people? Am I willing to fast and pray for their salvation? Do I really believe that God has to work in the heart of the unbeliever before they can come to faith?

### **SO WHAT???**

I was so glad to read this week that a study has been done on how people find their way from place to place. There are people that seem to know exactly where they are and how to get to where they want to go. Then there are others, like myself, who are challenged to find their destination even though they may have been there several times. There are people who know what navigational direction they are going at all times. I’m very grateful for GPS, MapQuest, and google maps. When planning a trip I like to pull out paper maps. Yes, they are actually a thing, and I get them free with my AAA membership. You know what the Bible has to say about man’s sense of direction when it comes to spiritual things?

**Proverbs 14:12** There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.

\*Have I recognized the message of the gospel is for me?

\*How has the truth that there are only two options affected me?

\*How am I fulfilling the mission God has given me to share the gospel through my words and actions?

\*What Scripture am I memorizing that explains the gospel?

\*Who am I praying for who hasn’t come to know Jesus yet?