

R U Ready?

Part 1: Introduction

Life Church...

Army Base Hospital Church... Mostly “medical” staff/restoration mentality! All “military” engaged in war for men’s souls! Even “wounded” looking forward to duty! Definitely not civilian minded! Existing to bring healthy warriors/field!

We serve One Commander in Chief... Who delights in appointing most unlikely! Follow His writings... manual for warfare! Author and Finisher of operations! Emulate His example/record/ achievements...

We believe the battlefield is men’s souls... That we exist to point mankind to Him... And that our relevance connection is the power of God to lead and live attractive and functional lives!

Salvation is our #1 mission... Can be focused on lots of things but without salvation life comes to a frightening end... People can get to heaven hungry, sick, broke, drunk, drugged, divorced, bitter... But can’t get them to heaven w/o salvation!

Our #2 mission is being the best ministers of mission #1 that we can be... Requiring discipline/diligence/boldness... “*We don’t let friends die unsaved!*” Requiring growth/fruit of labor... Works equal to our salvation!

Our time together is not the sum of church experience... Not trying to do everything that can happen in a church... “end all/be all” Just one class during a week of training and instruction to live out our faith...

We’re not here to do church, we’re here to do “school!” And if we could we would do “school” everyday... To make us the most effective church in the world we could be!

The world needs people they can trust! They need answers they can live on! They need help understanding a new approach to common problems! Unfortunately, so does the church!

To be people of trust with answers that work we need to know what the answers are!

Are you convinced that the only way to God is thru His Son, Jesus? “I am the Door, by Me will men be saved! **J10.9** “I am the Way the Truth and the Life, no man comes to the Father but by Me!” **J14.6** “By Him we have access thru the Spirit to the Father! **Eph 2.18**

Do you believe that God’s way is the only right way? “There is a way that seems right to men but the end of it is death.” **Pr14.12 16.25** “Except a man is born again he cannot see the kingdom of heaven!” **J3.3** “Broad is the way that leads to destruction but narrow is the way leading to life!” **Mt7.13**

Do you really believe that “there’s a heaven to gain and a hell to shun?” “He has appointed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness...” **Acts 17.31** “The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished...” **2P2.4** “When the Son of Man comes in His glory surrounded by holy angels then He will sit on His throne and separate the sheep from the goats and say to the sheep come and inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world... and... to the goats He will say, ‘Depart from Me, for you are cursed, into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels... **Matt 25. 31-41 Seems pretty plain/but do you believe it’s the truth!**

Do you really believe that the God who is rich in mercy is also the God of true justice? “We are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. The hard and impenitent heart treasures up wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God.” **Rom2.2,5**

“Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men...” **2Cor 5.11** Do we believe in the power **1Cor 1.17, 2.4,13** and need to “persuade men?” **1Cor 9.22,23** “Without Christ, we have no hope, and we are without God in the world: But in Christ are made to God near by His blood. For He is our peace with God! **Eph 2.12-14**

This ministry of reconciliation we have been given is not for the faint of heart! It will demand boldness powered by convictions and bring you into all kinds of confrontations... And if you faint in the day of adversity your strength will have proved to be little! Prov 24.10

So what are your beliefs and what will you say to a world in need of answers when it comes to...

The upcoming elections... the future role of America in the world... We have a proven anti-Christian leader in office. “Dreams from my Father” maps his agenda. Can we put a Mormon in the Whitehouse? Can the Christian conservative beat him? What will four more years without the court of public opinion do to our nation?

How well, or how will you, operate in an increasingly hostile environment to Christian faith?

The economy... Will you be able to show people how to “stand calmly” in bad economic times/covenant? What will/should we do to about a devaluating retirement portfolio? What will you say to people who are losing their fortunes and homes?

The future role of Israel... God’s timer/the church responsibility

The rise of Islam in America... Not the God of Isaac and Ishmael

The disproportionate homosexual lobby... Silver/flat screen presence. Education/Business

MSNBC 3/16 **“My Christianity Got Me Fired”** “Increasingly, workers are pushing the envelope on what they want to do in the name of their religion, because many individuals are politically and socially emboldened today to *“carry their religion into all aspects of their life.”*”

The always present abortion issue... \$1 system-wide payments/abortions and contraceptives... *Post birth abortions...*

The demise of church integrity/theology... Neo-theology rising in churches... **2Th2.2,3** New forms of Gnosticism under cover of grace.

What we have thought in the past: “If My people, called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face... then will I hear from heaven and forgive their sin and heal their land!” **2Chronicles 7.14**

Misquoted scripture has not only not worked but increased the danger to the church...

What it says: “If My people, called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face *and turn from their wicked ways*; then will I hear from heaven and forgive their sin and heal their land!” **2Chronicles 7.14**

And that’s why it hasn’t worked – and will not work, because the church is not willing to turn from her own wicked ways; the pursuits of our own pleasures and desires for the sake of the world.

R U Ready for what’s ahead? It’s time to get ready!