

(Where Is the Church Going) 6. One Day We Will Give an Account to God

by Miki Hardy

Miki Hardy's sermon emphasizes the urgency of living a faithful Christian life and the accountability that comes with preaching sound doctrine in preparation for Christ's return.

Duration: 1:07:06

Scripture: Isaiah 30:10, Jeremiah 23:16, Jeremiah 23:31, Matthew 5:18, 1 Timothy 6:3, James 3:17, 2 Peter 2:1

Topics: "Judgment Seat"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of staying true to the gospel of Jesus Christ and not getting involved in messages that have no sense or are meant to entertain. He encourages Christians to keep sound doctrine and walk a holy life, fulfilling the requirements of the law. The preacher highlights the commandment of love as the foundation of Christian life, explaining that love is demonstrated through actions that resemble Jesus. He also references Jeremiah 23:1 to warn against shepherds who scatter and neglect the sheep, emphasizing the need for preachers and Christians to take their responsibility seriously as they will be held accountable by the Lord.

Transcript

Well, it's wonderful to be together this morning again and to share with you the gospel. We are encouraged in our hearts to feel what the Lord is preparing in these last days. In these last days, we cannot make plans for 50 years from now.

It will be too late because Jesus is coming back. He's coming back for his church. That's why we need to make sure that on that day, Jesus will find faith in our hearts.

He will see us serving him together as a body, as a church. He will be proud to have a people of his own who did not know him, but who knows him now and on that day. So we must make everything we can and trust him that he will find faith in our hearts on that day.

Many Christians will turn away from the faith, even from that day today, until the day that Jesus comes back. They are going to be swallowed up by the world, by the deception of the enemy. They will, many, many will turn their back on the Lord after having known him and experienced his love.

So I believe we are in a time, crucial time, important time, where it's our own lives or nothing. It's not a time to compromise half and half. It's time to give our hearts to the Lord.

Amen? So I'm excited about what the Lord is going to do and my purpose is to encourage you to see, to see the plan, to see the vision, to understand what God wants to do, so that as our brother Michel said earlier on, we will take part. We'll not be spectators, but we will take part in what God is about to do. He's preparing in the Spirit.

Amen? Great. I'm glad to share with you again my heart at this time where I believe the Church needs, needs the truth more than ever, the truth of the Gospel. I would like to share with you today about understanding that all of us will have an account to give to the Lord.

Preachers, Christians, we will all have an account to give on that day. That's why we must take it seriously. We must take seriously what we hear from the Lord.

We must take seriously what we preach to others, because one day we will have to give an account of what we have preached, what we have heard, what did we do with the truth. All of us, there is one day that is waiting for us. Open our Bibles in James chapter 3. Preachers can't preach just what they want.

We've got to stand by sound doctrine. Apostle James gives us a warning. He gives a warning to the Church, and preachers are the ones that carry greater responsibility if they are called by the Lord to preach the Gospel.

That's why it's a warning to me as a preacher. It's a warning to all preachers, pastors, teachers of the Word of God, because one day we will give an account of what we have preached, of what we have encouraged Christians to do, what word we have brought to them. That's why the Apostle James says, My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

We shall receive a stricter judgment. In other words, if we are preachers, God, in the natural way of saying things, will sit us down one day and ask us what we have preached. And if we have forgotten, He will remind us.

That's for sure. There will be a day, the Bible says very clearly here, that we shall receive a stricter judgment for what we have preached. It's very clear here.

It's a warning from the Lord, and we shall see a little bit later what the Apostle Paul says to Timothy about keeping sound doctrine. And Paul says to Timothy in his first book, chapter one, verse three. 1 Timothy, chapter one, verse three, says, As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, remain in Ephesus, that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine.

Or in other words, to keep sound doctrine and not to give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification, which is in faith. Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith, from which some have been strayed. Or in other words, they have been lost.

They have taken another direction. They have taken a direction where now they are far from sound doctrine, desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say, nor the things which they affirm. That's another charge that Paul gives to Timothy, to remain and stay and stick to the words that he has received.

He urges him, teach no other doctrine, teach no other doctrine than the true gospel of Jesus Christ and him crucified. Don't run away from it. Don't compromise.

Stick to it. In Matthew chapter 5, verse 17, Jesus gave the command. He said, Do not think that I came to destroy the law or the prophets.

I did not come to destroy, but to fulfill. In other words, Jesus says, I have come to fulfill the law of Moses. I have come through my life to fulfill every single word that I gave to Moses in the ten commandments.

And he goes on to say, For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall he be called least in the kingdom of God. But whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of God.

That's a command that Jesus Christ gave to his disciples. Jesus had come to fulfill the law and those who preach the gospel must not remove one jota, must not add one jota. Now we're not talking just about words and sentences in the Bible.

We're talking about sound doctrine, the message, the true message of the cross, the message of Jesus Christ, our identification to him, so that we may be able also to fulfill the same law that Jesus Christ fulfilled when we get born again in the kingdom of God. That's one purpose. We shall not go far from sound doctrine because it's the only way that we are going to fulfill the requirements of the law that the apostle Paul mentioned in the book of Romans chapter 8. He says what the Lord didn't, cannot do, God did by sending his son Jesus Christ in the flesh so that we may fulfill the requirements of the law.

That's the purpose of Christian life. There is no other purpose of the Christian life on that earth. Don't look so far away when the day we will be with Jesus forever.

It's time today to look at our life now. In other words, we are called to fulfill the requirements of the law. In other words, to walk a holy life, to follow the footstep of Jesus, to carry his life, to be able to transmit the perfume of the knowledge of God.

That's the only reason that the apostle Paul said to Timothy, keep sound doctrine. Stay in there. Stay in there.

Don't get involved in fables. Don't get involved in stories. Don't get involved in messages that have no sense and just try to, you know, entertain people.

Keep sound doctrine. Stay there. Because that's the only power that can bring Christians to walk a holy life, to fulfill the requirements of the law.

In other words, do not steal. In other words, do not take the wife of your brother. In other words, worship the only God with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your strength, Jesus.

How can we do that if we still, if we are going to hear fables and, you know, things about humanism and everything else entertaining? We are the responsibility to bring Christians to become spiritual people, not intellectuals, but spiritual people. That's my calling. That's the calling of whoever stands behind a pulpit and preaches the gospel.

So we see that there are warnings, commands from the Lord, from the apostles of the early church who lived the gospel, who caught the revelation of Christ and him crucified, who understood why they gave their lives. They were prepared to sacrifice their lives, to lose their own lives for the sake of the church. Let's open our bibles in the book of Jeremiah.

You know, when you look at chapter 20 of the book of Exodus, the ten commandments, what do you see? If you make a resume of the ten commandments, what do you see? You see that the purpose and the plan of God for mankind was to please him, was to have a fellowship with him, not in sin. No, not while walking in sin. You can't have a fellowship with God if you keep walking in sin and enjoying it.

If you are struggling by sin in your life and you are taking your cross and following Jesus and you are eager to get rid of him, God will help you. By his grace he will help you. But if you keep enjoying it, you can't have fellowship with God, because then you are not fulfilling the requirements of the law.

We are not called to live by the law, we call to live by the spirit who will allow us to fulfill the requirements of the law. So it's two different situations all together. So what do we see in the law of Moses, the ten commandments? What do we see? We see a life that Israel couldn't live and it was talking about their lifestyle.

The law of the ten commandments is not talking about the things that you have, the things that you lack, material things, things that you can see. The ten commandments talk about your inner being. Am I right? Talks about a lifestyle.

Doesn't talk about what I can get. It was never mentioned what I could get or what I can get or what I can claim is not mentioned in the ten commandments. And Jesus Christ died that we may fulfill the ten commandments.

Everything else is a blessing, but it's not the purpose of life. The purpose of life is that we may fulfill the requirements of the law. And we may be rejoicing today because Jesus Christ made it possible by dying on that cross and taking our sins.

And if we believe in him by the spirit, we shall fulfill the requirements of the law. That's the purpose. Yeah.

Jeremiah chapter 23. So we must stick our, you know, the people talk about mindset. Let's flow with them.

Let's say that we have, we need to have our mindset on the things which Israel could not fulfill. In other words, we have to have our mindset of accomplishing the law. Can you understand? Can you? That's our purpose.

Now, if you have your mindset of becoming richer, you are fooling yourself because there is only one thing that Jesus Christ came for. That we might be saved, one. Second, that we might walk like him, be like him, fulfilling the requirements of the law.

Now, you cannot challenge that. That's the truth. You can't deny it.

You can't say but. There's no but. You can't add.

That's the essence of Christianity. You can't add to it something and make that thing that you add part of the essence of Christianity. You cannot.

So why should I spend hours trying to make people believe on something else than to fulfill the requirements of the law? Can you see where I'm going? Why should I spend hours making big conference about something that is not linked to the essence of Christianity? In other words, for you and I to fulfill the requirements of the law. Christ's life. It's no more me who lives, Christ who lives in me.

That's the purpose of it. That's why Paul, when he talks to Timothy, we read earlier on. We read earlier on about Timothy.

Faith. About the commandment of love. Remember? We read that earlier on.

The commandment of love. That's what it's all about. There's only one commandment that stands today.

It's love. And what is love? What is love? Love is my life. It's the thing I do that looks like Jesus.

That's love. I will see that later. But now I want to show you something.

Jeremiah chapter 23 verse 1. Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture, says the Lord. Woe. What does that mean? Woe.

Woe. Therefore, thus says the Lord, God of Israel, against the shepherds who feed my people, you have scattered them, driven them away, and not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for the evil of your doings.

But I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries where I've driven them, and bring them back to their foes, and they shall be fruitful and increased. Now I understand that this talks about Israel. I understand that.

Because the people of God have been scattered. Because they disobeyed God. And then there was a plan of God to bring them back.

But the reason why they scattered was because the shepherds did not feed them properly. And verse 4 says, I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them. Feed them.

Now we are under the new covenant. We've got to feed Christians with sound doctrine. With the true gospel of Jesus Christ.

And him crucified. That's what we need to feed them with. Christians hear too many stories.

Too many messages that preachers invent. Because they have nothing to preach. Because they have not yet caught the revelation of the true message of the cross.

That's why they are drawing people away from the truth. And Christians are being scattered because they are not properly fed. I keep repeating to you all the time that just because being a Christian, the Holy Spirit in you, will make your heart desire for truth.

The truth of God's word. And here the prophets, I mean these shepherds, have been feeding them, the people, the flock, the people, anything, anything, except what they needed to hear. Yeah? Except what they needed to hear.

And no wonder, no wonder the church of Jesus Christ today is struggling. Christians are falling apart, running away from the church. People talk about revival, and I heard someone talk on Christian television

last week, saying that in America, less Christians are going to church today than before.

And yet there are thousands of preachers. It's doubling every year. Why? Because Christians do not receive the food, the spiritual food that their heart needs and desires.

They are being deceived. Irresponsible preachers, entertaining Christians. Yeah? Some will come to you and tell you, you know, they get a revelation.

They've got a revelation, you know. This year is going to be a year of blessings. That, that, that, I mean, that, that, you know, that, that, that you never received before.

Such blessings that, you know, you will be overwhelmed with it. And the next year they come and tell you that it's got to be the year of the open door. I mean, you've got blessings that you cannot even take the year before, and now the God is going to open a new door for you for other blessings.

But how much blessing you gonna get? Right? If last year was a year of abundant blessings, what do I need more this year? I should be, I mean, overwhelmed by the blessings of last year, and yet be trying to understand why did God bless me like that? It's just foolish. Yeah? They're feeding people of nothing. Yeah? And the next year is the year of a new beginning.

What are we beginning again? Oh no, oh Lord, help me. I should be beginning again. Should I be born again now? I believe some of the Christians need to, and maybe some preachers as well.

It's the truth. Someone said last week that God is not only spiritual, but is material and financial. God help us.

God is spiritual, material, and financial. I hear it with my ears. Why do they have to put financial in there? Why, why, why? Deceiving Christians.

It's like the Chinese faith. This year is the year of rat, of the rat. Last year was the year of the dog, I believe, or the, I don't know what, the pig.

You know? I don't know, 209 for Christians, what year would it be? Now I'm speaking the truth, guys. In the same time, Christians are falling apart. Christian families are falling apart.

Christians are divorcing, and yet it's the year of the new beginning. Jeremiah 23, verse 16. Now the Lord speaks to the prophets, those who says, God said.

God spoke to me yesterday. God gave me a vision yesterday. God, God, God woke me up in the morning and told me that.

God, God, God, God, God, God. Look what God says. Thus says the Lord of hosts, do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you.

They make you worthless. They speak a vision of their own heart, not from the mouth of the Lord. They continually say to those who despise me.

Now can you understand what God is saying here? They continually say to Christians who don't walk like Jesus, who rebel against the Lord, who are independent and do not walk on the road of the cross and not, are not ready to give their lives. And these prophets say to them, the Lord has said, you shall have peace.

The Lord said, you shall have peace.

In other words, now this is verse 16 and 17 of the same chapter. In other words, do what you want with your life, but you will have peace. Because God said to me, God said to me, the Lord said, and the thousands of Christians listening, yes, yes.

And the Lord said, now listen, verse 25. I have heard what the prophets have said, who prophesy lies in my name saying, I have dreamed, I have dreamed. Yesterday I got a vision from the Lord.

I dreamt that the Lord says, it never happens. Yeah, the Lord says to you, yeah, it's amazing. What's the title of the message? We all have to give an account to God.

Yes. Verse 31. Be all I am against the prophets, says the Lord, who use their tongues and say, he says, the Lord says, the Lord gave me a vision.

If you look at the title of so many preachers today, you will believe that there are thousands of prophets in the body of Christ. Thousands. And if I understand well the anointing and the ministry of the prophet, he shall come and put order and bring the people of God back to him and warn and give commands and rebuke.

God said, doctors, apostles, Lord help us. God said to me, and the Lord says, open your Bibles with me. In the book of Titus chapter 2, verse 1. But as for you, speak the time, the things which are proper for sound doctrine.

Speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine. And then he gives a little resume of what Timothy should say, should exhort, should teach. To the older man be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience.

Sound doctrine. The older woman likewise, that they may be reverent in behavior, not slanderous, not given too much wine, teachers of good things. That they admonish the young woman to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.

That's sound doctrine. Likewise, exhort the young man to be sober-minded in all things, showing yourself to be a pattern of good works. In doctrine, showing integrity, reverence, and corruptibility.

Sound doctrine. Sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you. Exhort bond servants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well-pleasing in all things, not answering back, not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.

That's sound doctrine. In other words, the preaching of the cross of Jesus Christ. In Colossians chapter 1 verse 28, I want just to remind you what Paul is saying about his ministry, his desire, his vision as a true man of God.

Verse 28, it's 27, he says, let's read verse 28. Him we preach, Jesus, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end, or for this purpose, I labor, striving according to his working which works in me mightily.

That's his aim for preaching the gospel. He doesn't mind if the one is rich or poor. He wants everyone to become perfect in Christ.

In other words, to fulfill the requirements of the law. Yeah, that's his purpose. That's his aim for ministry.

He cares for the soul. He cares for the heart of the people. He wants them to be victorious in life.

He wants them to walk a holy life. He doesn't care about the rest. It's not his problem.

Because for him, he understood that when a Christian does the will of God, God will take care of him. That's why money is not mentioned in the 10 commandments. Because God knows in his faithfulness how to take care of his children.

How to give them what they need and more of what they need and more of what they need so that they may bless the kingdom. That's one of the reasons that Paul takes to Timothy one full chapter in his first book about the rich people. One full chapter, chapter six.

He says don't mix godliness or don't use godliness as a way for you to become richer. Yeah, one full chapter. He gives a warning.

You want to read it? Let's read it. One Timothy, chapter six, verse three. If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words.

Now again, why is he talking about preachers here? Because they have a greater responsibility and they will give an account to what they are preached. And secondly, because he cares for the people of God. He says if anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness.

Now godliness is the ten commandments. Are you there? Godliness is fulfilling the requirements of the law. Is walking pleasing to God.

Is proud. This man is proud. Yeah, he's proud.

Knowing nothing. I wonder how many preachers know nothing. I'm speaking just my heart.

Yeah. Now if you don't keep sound doctrine and stick to down sound doctrine, you don't know much about the revelation of Christ. You don't know much about the revelation of Christ.

Obsessed with disputes and arguments over words. Let me tell you something. I tell you people get messages from the bible that are not sound doctrine, because they get words from the bible to prove what they say.

And they are ready to dispute with you. Because it's written. Because it's in the word.

Because it's in the bible. Yeah. They are ready to fight you.

Because somewhere they saw a few words about some subject from which comes strife, reviling, evil suspicions. Useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth. Who suppose that godliness is a means of gain.

Who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. Who suppose that godliness is a way to profit. Who suppose that godliness is a way for you to gain.

I want to remind you the words of Jesus. If you want to follow him, you've got to lose your life. If you believe that godliness is gaining something from God, you are on the wrong road my friend.

We're talking about basics Christianity. Yeah. Simple Christianity.

That people have twisted everything and they make Christians believe that if you want to be godly and victorious, you need to prosper. Prosper. Now you need to understand that I've got nothing against prosperity.

All right. Nothing. Because God can do anything.

God is able. Yeah. You know that word able? It's not God will.

It's God is able. God is able to give you more than what you can get. God is able doesn't mean that he wills.

God can do anything. That's why he wants those who run after money and who try to twist the doctrine of God. Sound doctrine.

And they want you to believe that godliness is a way for you to profit. It's a means. Can you see what I'm saying? So they've left the preaching of the cross.

What does the Bible say? What does the Bible say? From such, withdraw yourself. Withdraw yourself from such people who believe that godliness is a means for you to profit. In other words, you are mixing Christianity with money.

Using Christianity. Using the gospel. Using the Bible to enrich yourself.

And if you go in the book of Timothy many times, you will see that Paul says to Timothy, God. God, the deposit. God, keep sound doctrine.

Keep it. One full chapter about rich people. I don't believe I'm against the rich people.

No, no, no, no. No, no, no, no. But then the apostle Paul defines godliness.

He says godliness with contentment is gain. Can you see the difference? Godliness is not a way for you to profit. But godliness with contentment in your heart is gain.

I hope you see that. Oh, come on guys. Do you see that? Hey, can you see that? Hey, godliness is not a means for you to gain and profit.

But godliness with contentment. Oh, in other words, whoever or whatever you have or don't have, it's not the problem. But what is a gain to you is the way you live as a Christian.

Clear. Very clear. And I hope you are being delivered.

Very clear. Is it clear for you guys? Oh, Lord, help us. And the Paul says, did you bring something in this world? You came naked, sir.

And you're not going to bring anything with you anyway. You're going to leave everything behind. You're going to go back as dust.

You want to go to death. For we brought nothing into this world and it is certain we can carry nothing out of it. No pockets.

Your saving account book and everything I've got, you've got. You can't bring it with you. It's worthless there.

It's got no meaning there. It would be ridiculous for you to leave it behind for somebody else. So it in the kingdom, sir.

I tell you, kingdom, kingdom, kingdom. Jesus is coming back soon. Kingdom, kingdom.

And having food and clothing with these, we shall be content. For those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and its snare and into many foolish and harmful lusts, which draw men in destruction and perdition. And yet, and yet, and yet, many preachers are drawing people to become rich for themselves, contrary to sound doctrine.

If you have a plan to become rich for the kingdom, carry on, sir. It will not become a snare for you. It will not be dangerous for you.

It will not become a trap for you. That's why Paul's concern was to make spiritual people who can handle finances for the kingdom. Yeah.

Paul is busy in his heart. He was busy in his heart to make spiritual people who can handle things. Yeah.

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. For the love of money. Now let me tell you something.

Now I'm going to be plain. Clear, but simple. For many, finances and money is the backbone of their ministry.

And they cannot tell me they don't love it. It's false. The reality is that they love it.

And they've made it part of their lives. And now they can't do anything else but preach it to you. And it's a big deception for Christians who are hearing and trying to put it into practice.

I tell you clearly. And it's a reason why many people have left the gospel. The Bible says for many of them have strayed.

I don't know the word strayed, but I know what it means. It means leaving, going far from the reality of the true gospel. Departed.

In their greediness, right? In their greediness, they have departed from sound doctrine or from the faith. They have made godliness a means to profit. And they are teaching God's people the same.

We all one day will give an account of what we have preached and what we have lived and what we have heard. Every preacher will love to give an account. And the sad thing is that many Christians are following the trend.

Following the trend. That's why it's urgent, urgent, sir, to come back to the simplicity of the gospel of Jesus Christ and him crucified. For your life to be broken, worked by God, so that you have a desire in your heart to lose your life so that you may become like him.

So that you may carry his life. So that your pathway might be an open door for some to walk and follow. An example for those that follow you to know, like the apostle Paul saying, follow me because I am a follower of Jesus Christ.

Christians, you must rise up. You must rise up and know that there is another gospel that can set you free and bring freedom to you and feed you. The gospel that will challenge your life and make you to know exactly who you are and what God wants you to become, so that you may fulfill the requirements of the law.

And Paul says to Timothy, but you men of God, flee these things. You men of God, flee these things. Flee, run away from it.

Don't touch it. Don't have that attitude. Don't make it to become your life, your ambition, your preaching, your aim, your counsel.

Flee from it, but pursue righteousness, pursue godliness, pursue faith, pursue love, pursue patience, pursue gentleness. Return. In other words, leave that for those who never heard it.

But for you, for you who have listened to my words, for you who sat at my feet, for you who received the revelation of Christ and him crucified, flee from these things, but pursue patience, love, faith, godliness, righteousness. Make that your life, your ambition in life. And then he says to Timothy, fight the good fight of faith.

Fight the good fight of faith. Lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called, and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. You have heard.

You will have to give an account. You have preached what you preached. You have to give an account.

Everyone here will have to give an account. Everyone here. We love to give an account.

My prayer is that every single person listening will catch the revelation of the true gospel, and that something rises up in your heart to tell you this is not sound doctrine. What I've been hearing is not sound doctrine. But my spirit wants and desires the true gospel.

You know what Paul says in the book of Galatians? Let's open Galatians chapter 4. Verse 19, he says, my little children, for whom I labor in birth again, until Christ is formed in you. Amen? Until Christ is formed in you. That's the purpose of his ministry.

That's why he endured every persecution and affliction and suffering. That's why he was ready to give up everything. He says here, I'm ready again for a second time, because he had first visited the Galatians and brought to them the gospel.

They had backslidden. He said, I'm ready to suffer again the pains of childhood, so that Christ be formed in you. In other words, so that you may become spiritual people.

In other words, so that you may fulfill the requirements of the law. In other words, so that you may walk holy with God. It's simple to say God said, when you've got nothing to say.

There's so much to say. There's so much to talk about. There's so much to preach about Christ and him crucified.

About the cross of Jesus Christ in your life. About what God wants to do in you. About the change that he wants to bring in your life.

About the freedom that he wants to give you as a Christian. So that you may desire the things of the kingdom. Amen? I tell you.

2 Timothy chapter 3. Chapter 3 verse 10. But you have carefully followed my doctrine, my manner of life, my purpose, my faith, my long-suffering, my love, my perseverance, my persecutions, my afflictions. Which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra.

What persecutions I endured and out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly. We're talking about godliness.

And all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. Persecution for the gospel that you preach, for the truth that you carry, for the gospel of Jesus Christ. And the Apostle Paul was ready to endure everything for the sake of the church.

He said if I have to add to the sufferings of Christ for you, I would do it. In all the essence of the doctrine of Jesus Christ, and the doctrine of the Apostle Paul revealed to him by the spirit, there is mentioned the essence, the foundation of Christianity, the purpose of Christian life. Everything else is just a surplus, a bonus.

Yet the blessings, and the good things, and the healing, and the things that God has got for us as children, and how he cares for us, and looks after us. These are present in the character of God, in who God is for his people. But you cannot bring that in the foundation of Christianity.

It's not the foundation of Christianity. It's not the purpose of Christian life. That's why Christians, we need to be careful that we not swallow everything that is being said by doctor so-and-so, and pastor so-and-so, and reverend so-and-so, and ministry so-and-so.

We must come back to sound doctrine, and check. Even if there are five preachers who speak the same thing, it doesn't mean to say that it is sound doctrine. The true gospel of Jesus Christ that the Apostle Paul defended by his lifestyle.

I tell you the best way that the Apostle Paul defended the gospel was not by fighting with people towards his lifestyle, his life. What happened to him is a reflection, pure reflection of the Christian lifestyle. Or let's put it that way, the attitude, the attitude that we must have towards our life, our Christian life.

Because all of us are not going to endure what the Apostle Paul endured. But it's an attitude, knowing that this is the foundation of Christianity. And the Apostle Paul defended it up to his last day.

He kept the faith. He carried the one purpose, the true gospel. The Apostle Paul was a threat to many preachers, many apostles, many doctors, or teachers.

He was a threat. He was a threat for what he said, for what he brought as revelation. And his life was a threat.

His lifestyle was a threat. All of us will have to give an account of what we preached, or counseled people, or exhorted people, or give them a direction. We will all have somehow to sit before the Lord Jesus Christ, and give an account.

Is it the truth? I want to close. I want to close by saying to the Christians, there is one gospel that can satisfy your heart. There is one gospel that doesn't touch your emotions.

There's one gospel that doesn't bring you to just be excited about something that's happening. But there's one gospel that you need to hear for your life. And that's what you're hearing.

It's the gospel of Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. It's our identification to Him, in His sufferings, in His death, and in His resurrection from the dead. If you go that route, my friend, you cannot miss the mark.

If you go that route, you will experience freedom. If preachers can take hold of the revelation of the true gospel of Jesus Christ for their own lives, it will be just a new beginning, a new truth that comes to your heart, that will only satisfy your heart. I know, I know by my own experience and testimony, that there was a time in my life that I didn't feel I was pleasing God in the ministry.

And I searched, and I tried everything I could, and I followed many teachings, until the time came that I had to stop. I had to stop and ask God, what's the problem? I was shocked when God said to me, you are the problem, because my life had never been dealt with by God. I never expected that answer from the Lord, because all I knew when there were problems is to go in the Bible and seek for a message.

That's all I knew. But that day was probably the greatest shock of my life. I was a preacher for about eight, ten years, a defeated preacher.

But God opened my eyes a little bit about what he wanted to do in my life, as a preacher, as a father, as a husband. I never knew what was waiting for me. I knew there was something, but I'd taken the decision for the gospel.

I decided to take up my cross and follow Jesus Christ. I decided to lose my life for my wife, for the church. Something started in my heart.

It was painful. It was hard. It's as if, you know, everyone has departed, and you were alone, alone with God.

And I can understand somehow a little bit about what the Apostle Paul talks about, about the sufferings of Christ, of what happened in his heart, in his life. And I started to understand what he's gone through and the reason why he accepted a new lifestyle for him, God into his life, God changing him and breaking him and molding him. And I knew that that was my life to come, and the life of the church to come.

And that's what I preached. That's what I've been preaching for the last 10, 12, 15 years of my life in ministry. I've changed.

I've seen families changed. I've seen husbands changed. I've seen children changed.

I've seen young people changed. That's why I'm urging you this morning. I'm urging you.

Take full responsibility of what you hear. The gospel of Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Take a time.

Take a time for yourself with the Lord. Take a time maybe to listen again to the message. Take a time to allow God to show you what you have probably never seen before.

The true gospel of Jesus Christ and Him crucified. My dear friends, my dear pastors, friends, preachers, Christians, what I want to do is to see the church of Jesus Christ rise up and be a testimony in this world. That's my desire.

That's why I'm opening my heart to you. That's why I'm trying to speak the truth the best I can. Just to make you aware that there is a gospel that changed lives.

Maybe you've come to the turning point of your life where you are the discouraged preacher and thousands of Christians that are seeking for a new direction. Let me tell you the gospel of Jesus Christ, the cross of Jesus Christ. Simple.

The foundation of Christian life is your answer. The answer to your life is that something happens deep down in your heart and that you may be satisfied. And don't forget one day, one day you and I shall give an account to the Lord of our lives and what we are preached.

May God bless you all. And I encourage you to stay with us every single Sunday evening at 9.30. God bless you and we'll see you next week. Let's stand up, let's stand up, let's stand up.

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