

BEING ABOUT THE FATHER'S BUSINESS

February 11, 2024

Ray Flores

Choose Christ - Many of you have chosen Christ. Aren't you glad you did?

If you haven't already chosen Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, what are you waiting for?

Repent of sin, acknowledge Christ as LORD, pursue a relationship with Jesus, know Him personally and intimately. Read the Word of God, study about the character of Christ, have a prayer life, worship (service, song, finances, etc).

As recorded in Mark 12 and Matthew 22, Jesus himself quotes the Old Testament and tells us that the first and most important command is this:

"The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength" (Deuteronomy 6: 4-5). The second is this: "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Leviticus 19:18).

Our focus and first thought should be God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. By placing God as our highest priority, we have the capacity to truly love others. In this day and age the best way to love others is to invite them to know the Messiah.

Declaring yourself a Christian, or a follower of Christ, is serious business. God has given you His ALL.

After receiving His priceless gift, are you content to sit back and do life as usual? Or are you ready to live as a new creation in Christ?

2 Corinthians 5:17, 20 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! We are therefore Christ's ambassadors.

And Jesus Christ was about His Father's business.

The rapture is inevitable and could happen at any time. The Bible tells us that the end times will be as they were in the days of Noah. In those days before the flood *"the earth was corrupt in God's eyes and was full of violence" (Gen 6:11)*. God's judgment was coming by way of a great flood that would *"put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them" (Gen 6:13)*. God made a way to spare those righteous few from His judgment along with a plan to fill the earth with His creation.

God's moral judgment is coming to destroy sin once and for all. God sent his son Jesus, who lived a perfect life, to pay for our salvation. But only if we would believe. After Jesus defeated death and ascended to heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to be with us. The Spirit of God is an incredible gift! The Holy Spirit is our Counselor, Advocate, Helper, Comforter, Guide, and revealer of truth.

"But when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth." (John 16:13)

So how can we be about our Father's business?

A biblical marriage, between one man and one woman, as established by God, is a great foundation for raising God-fearing children and transmitting a spiritual legacy to the next generation. Marriage and family have been severely under attack. God has called men to be the priest of the family.

Joshua 24:15 But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

Be courageous when confronting the enemy of God.

1 Samuel 17: 45-47 David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give all of you into our hands."

Know the word of God and stand on its inerrant truth. If we, who call ourselves Christians, do not stand for truth and righteousness, evil will prevail.

In the late 1930s, God-fearing people and bible-teaching churches in Germany had neglected to speak out against Hitler's evil regime. The good people of Germany didn't want to make waves or upset the ruling authority. The church stepped aside. The church remained silent. The church became paralyzed. And evil prevailed. Approximately 6 million Jewish men, women and children were murdered by the Nazi regime. This number does not include the murder of non-Jewish people, or the survivors of torture and imprisonment at the hand of Nazis.

Today we are witnessing blatant evil everywhere and in all areas of life. The type and frequency of criminal activity and the pervasiveness of untruth is alarming. So what are we doing? Are we teaching our children that God created only two sexes: male and female; and speaking out against gender ideology? Are we challenging false doctrine in our churches? Are we defending the Jewish people against rising anti-semitism? Do we exercise self-control when it comes to our personal electronic devices? Do we allow lying, cheating, and stealing if it benefits us? Do we protect the unborn? Are we content to come into church on Sunday, hear a nice message, sing Kumbaya, and then go about our week? Are we courageously speaking God's truth?

Jesus is coming soon. God will judge us on our actions and inaction. Be bold and stand firm on the Truth. We are fortunate to live in the United States of America where we have our First Amendment freedom of speech. Other places are not so fortunate and it's only a matter of time before our God-given freedoms are taken away. This is an election year. We have the opportunity to elect the government that we want and if we don't, we'll get the government that we deserve.

Ecclesiastes 10:2 NASB 1995 A wise man's heart directs him toward the right, but the foolish man's heart directs him toward the left.

So what is our Father's business? It is standing on the TRUTH of his word. Ephesians tells us to stand firm several times, to be about our Father's business, to be bold and proclaim our faith, and being that light to shine the way. Being about our Father's business is to glorify Him through our interactions and our actions. Being about our Father's business is not cowering to evil and unrighteousness. This is a call on His people to act righteously. The word of God says,

"if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14)

Live a life of worship; don't just make it about Sundays.

"I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth." (Psalm 34:1 NASB1995)

Worship is an event and a lifestyle. While weekly church-body worship is needed and often powerful, so is your daily lifestyle of worship. As you practice honoring and responding to God throughout the week - in your marriage, work, recreation, conversations, quiet times, thoughts, with your children, etc., your whole life will become an offering of worship to God that burns strong and true. So live a life of worship and look for ways to be about your Father's business. Amen