

PLEASANT VIEW PROCLAIMER

January 1, 2023

The Mission of the Church: Lesson 14 - What Now?

In our series on “The Mission of the Church,” we’ve covered what God expects of us as His church in the areas of Worship, Edification, Benevolence, and Evangelism. In this lesson we will look at how we can put these things into practice as individuals and as a church.

Worship

Every person gets to choose how they will use their “church time”. In view of our study, we must take this time seriously and to use it to reverently invest in worship of the creator. True worship is not simply going through the motions but is to be delivered in spirit and truth (**Jn 4:23-24**). This means being deliberate in every activity you are involved in whether it be singing, praying, breaking bread, or study. Remember that approaching God is a serious matter (**Ecc 5:1-2**) and that God deserves our worship with reverence and awe (**Heb 12:28-29**).

Those responsible for organizing and participating in our time together (including me), must also invest in putting together a service that is conducive to reverent worship in spirit and truth. This is not to be undertaken haphazardly, but with an understanding of the responsibility we have toward the creator. One way we can do this is not allowing ourselves to get into a rut with our routine. We must remember that “routine” is not worship! We must not be afraid to mix things up from time to time to keep us from falling into the rut of mindlessly going through the motions.

Edification

Encouragement – In Romans 12, Paul says that if one has the ability to exhort, they should be active in exhortation (**Rom 12:8**). Let’s all endeavor to be a “Barnabas,” that is a “son of encouragement” (**Acts 4:36-37**). Set an encouragement goal. Encourage at least one person per week (day, month). This can be with a simple word or a note. Tell someone how important and loved they are. Strengthen them through difficult situations. Never assume that a brother or sister in Christ does not need encouragement.



“Praise the Lord, all you gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples! For His merciful kindness is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!”

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upcoming sermon and
bible class topics

*ON THIS FIRST DAY OF A NEW
YEAR, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO
MAKE BIBLE READING & STUDY A
PART OF YOUR DAILY ROUTINE*

Being committed to encouragement also includes being committed to gathering with your church family (**Acts 2:42**). The church was meant to be together (**Acts 2:44**), and we draw strength from each other. Look for opportunities to connect with your church family outside of corporate worship. Invite brothers and sisters over for a meal. Make plans to go and do things together.

Teaching – Those of us who are teachers must take their responsibility seriously to teach sound doctrine (**2 Tim 4:1-5; Titus 2:1**) for the purpose of building up the church. If you've ever been a teacher in the past, consider jumping back in again to help others better understand the Word of life. This is a worthwhile endeavor. As students, we must invest in learning sound doctrine through personal study and at the feet of a teacher. Those being taught should encourage and support their teachers (**Gal 6:6**).

Benevolence

Look for opportunities to help those in need (**Mt 25:31-46; Gal 6:10**). This could include writing cards, visiting, taking food, helping with chores, or bringing special situations to the attention of the church. Benevolence must be a priority in how we use the resources of the church. Let's commit to brainstorming ideas for things we can be doing in 2023 to help those in need in our community and then go out there and do them.

Evangelism

We must remember that those who do not accept the Gospel are lost (**Mk 16:16; Rom 5:12**). Jesus and His followers made it clear that our mission is to take the Gospel to the world (**Mt 28:19-20**). This is what evangelism is all about. At its core, evangelism is building relationships and looking for opportunities to share the Gospel message. As with benevolence, evangelism must also be a priority in how we use the resources of the church. Let's also commit to brainstorming ideas for things we can be doing in 2023 to reach this community for Christ and then go out there and do them.

PRAYER LIST

- **Keith Walker** is suffering with some heart issues
- **Diane Singleton** has requested prayers
- **Burt & Peggy Wilkerson** are recuperating at home
- **Catherine Pennington** will have hernia surgery January 17th
- **Camille Brosky**, a family friend of the Agees, is in rehab recovering from a stroke
- **Judy Cook** is doing well at home
- Elizabeth's grandmother **Carol Saling** has cancer
- **Maria Hunter Harrington** has breast cancer
- **Forshia Pennington** has cancer.
- **Donna Rawls Head** is in hospice care
- Continue to pray for: **Chelsea Roaden**, those in **Ukraine**; the **Brown** family, **Kim Waller**, **Kristine Garrett**, the **Krantz** family, **John Hayes**, **Nick Phifer**, **Isabel Johnson**, and **Jim Sims**

SERVING TODAY (January 1, 2023)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Read: R. Mayo
Prayer: D. Billingsley

WORSHIP

Read: J. Walker
Wait On Table: J. Gupton
Serve: J. Buchanan, D. Demonbreun
Prayer: M. Reed