

Mission Possible (Imperative)

Introduction - Our Anthem

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us--- [2] so that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations. [3] May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you. [4] May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples with equity and guide the nations of the earth. [5] May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you. [6] The land yields its harvest; God, our God, blesses us. [7] May God bless us still, so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.

Psalm 67:1-7

- It is for the Glory of God
- We as a family have a **Vision**: For all people to glorify God by knowing Christ, becoming like Christ and making Christ known

Our Marching Orders

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising 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.” **Matthew 28:19-20**

Our Identity

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” **Acts 1:8**

- Holy Spirit people - full, overflowing
- God full lives

I trust you are here today because you have been impacted, transformed and captivated by the beauty of the gospel. The awesome good news of Jesus Christ. God becoming man to pay the penalty for sin, redeeming and reconciling humans back to God through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ upon the cross.

Our Message Is The Gospel - Knowing God

Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. **John 17:3**

- The gospel is not attending a building
- It is not praying a prayer though that may help or not
- The Gospel is not Church membership
- The Gospel is not about Church structures and government
- The essence of the Gospel is knowing God and his Son Jesus Christ
- The Gospel is a relationship made possible through the sacrificial love of God

- The greatest relationship, the most satisfying, exhilarating and adventurous union any human could know

The Gospel Is Powerful

..I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are in Rome. [16] For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

Romans 1:15-16

- Paul had an obligation to preach the gospel - There is a duty
- Paul is eager to preach the Gospel - There is joy and passion,

For Christ's love compels us, because we are **convinced** that one died for all, and therefore all died. **2 Corinthians 5.14**

- I am not ashamed of the gospel - No SHAME, No embarrassment
- Because it is the power of God - The Gospel reveals the Power of God
- That brings salvation - The Power to Save is in the Gospel
- For everyone who believes

The Gospel Is Beautiful

Jesus, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; [7] rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. [8] And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death---even death on a cross! [9] Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, [10] that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, [11] and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. **Philippians 2:6-11**

The Gospel is Wonderful

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! [18] All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: [19] that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. [20] We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. [21] God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. **2 Corinthians 5:17-21**

- Advent reading from Solid Joys

I feel so strongly that among those of us who have grown up in church and who can recite the great doctrines of our faith in our sleep and who yawn through the Apostles Creed—that among us something must be done to help us once more feel the awe, the fear, the astonishment, the wonder of

the Son of God, begotten by the Father from all eternity, reflecting all the glory of God, being the very image of his person, through whom all things were created, upholding the universe by the word of his power.

You can read every fairy tale that was ever written, every mystery thriller, every ghost story, and you will never find anything so shocking, so strange, so weird and so spell-binding as the story of the incarnation of the Son of God.

How dead we are! How callous and unfeeling to his glory and his story! How often have I had to repent and say, "God, I am sorry that the stories men have made up stir my emotions, my awe and wonder and admiration and joy, more than your own true story."

The space thrillers of our day, like Star Wars and The Empire Strikes Back, can do this great good for us: they can humble us and bring us to repentance, by showing us that we really are capable of some of the wonder and awe and amazement that we so seldom feel when we contemplate the eternal God and the cosmic Christ and a real living contact between them and us in Jesus of Nazareth.

When Jesus said, "For this I have come into the world," he said something as crazy and weird and strange and eerie as any statement in science fiction that you have ever read (John 18:37).

O, how I pray for a breaking forth of the Spirit of God upon me and upon you. I pray for the Holy Spirit to break into my experience in a frightening way, to wake me up to the unimaginable reality of God.

One of these days lightning is going to fill the sky from the rising of the sun to its setting, and there is going to appear in the clouds one like a son of man with his mighty angels in flaming fire. And we will see him clearly. And whether from terror or sheer excitement, we will tremble and we will wonder how, how we ever lived so long with such a domesticated, harmless Christ.

These things are written that you might believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who came into the world. Really believe. **John Piper** (Solid Joys)

- Full of Wonder and Awe inspiring
- There is nothing so amazing, so captivating

The Gospel is Timeless

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it **IS** the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. **Romans 1:16**

- It **is** the power of God - Not used to be or will be but IS right now the power of God
- We do not have the right to change or soften or update the gospel
- Jesus does not require us to domesticate him
- He does not require us to dress him up or dress him down
- His words are eternal - Heaven and earth will pass away but his words will not!!

The Gospel Satisfies the deepest longing

As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. [2] My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? **Psalm 42:1-2**

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty! [2] My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. **Psalm 84:1-2**

A Call To:

Forward Motion - An army advancing

"And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. [23] I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. [24] However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me---the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace. **Acts 20:22-24**

- I consider my life worth nothing to me
- I am satisfied in Christ
- I want to finish the race complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me
- The task of testifying to the Gospel of Gods grace

For the Glory of God

May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you. **Psalm 67.3**

‘Missions exists because worship doesn’t.’ **John Piper**

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord. as the waters cover the sea. **Habakkuk 2.14**

So for the sake of worship all over the world we do missions. **John Piper**

‘May the lamb that was slain receive the reward for his suffering.’ **Moravian Missionarie**

With Urgency for we are in a battle

And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. [12] The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light.

Romans 13:11-12

These are our people - William Booth

William took Bramwell, his son, into an East End pub which was crammed full of dirty, intoxicated creatures. Seeing the appalled look on his son's face, he said gently, "Bramwell, these are our people—the people I want you to live for."

"While women weep as they do now, I'll fight; while little children go hungry as they do now, I'll fight; while men go to prison, in and out, in and out, as they do now, I'll fight—I'll fight to the very end!"

Walking the poverty-stricken streets of Whitechapel late one night in the summer of 1865, William Booth observed neglected children, drunken women, unemployed men, and prostitutes plying their trade. That night he decided, " These will be our people."

Europe

Population: 732,758,546

Largest religion: Christian

Percent Evangelical: 2.5%

'Great swathes of Central and Western Europe are truly post-Christian — where committed Christian remnants are small in number, low in confidence and marginalized. The battle against secularization and social irrelevance has been lost. What faith remains is confined to private belief. These regions are some of the most devoid of spiritual life in the world and urgently need to be re-evangelized.' **Operation World**