

Wednesday, March 20, 2019

Investing in the Future

1 Timothy 1:1-2

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Strange as it may seem, many Christians are busy doing everything except what they are called to do, that is, make disciples.

Win Arn, a consultant to churches, surveyed members of nearly a thousand churches asking the question, "Why does the church exist?" Of the church members surveyed, 89 percent said, "The church's purpose is to take of my family's and my needs." For many the role of the pastor is simply to keep the sheep who are already in the "pen" happy and not lose too many of them. Only 11 percent said, "The purpose of the church is to win the world for Jesus Christ."

Then the pastors of the same churches were asked why the church exists. Amazingly the results were exactly opposite. Of the pastors surveyed, 90 percent said the purpose of the church was to win the world and 10 percent said it was to care for the needs of the members. Is it any wonder why we have conflict, confusion and stagnation in many churches today? If the pastor and congregation can't even agree on why the church exists, conflict and disagreement on everything else is inevitable.¹

1. WE ARE MISSIONARIES – SENT OUT WITH A MESSAGE. 1:1

1 Timothy 1:1, "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our Savior and the Lord Jesus Christ, our hope,"

APOSTLE OF JESUS CHRIST - means a person who is sent out or sent forth. An apostle is a representative, an ambassador, an envoy, a person who is sent out into one country to represent another country.

1 - HE SENT US, and We Are **Accountable to God**.

2 - HE SACRIFICED FOR US, and We Are **Announcing Salvation**.

3 - HE SAVED US, and We Are **Giving Hope**. (see Col. 1:27 and 1 John 3:2-3)

¹ Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Church* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1995), 82.

2. WE ARE MENTORS – INVESTING AND REPRODUCING. 1:2

1 Timothy 1:2, “To Timothy, a true son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.”

See Philippians 2:19-22

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU INVEST:

#1 - THE FAITH (see 2 Timothy 2:2)

#2 – GRACE (see Eph. 2:8-9)

William Barclay (20th century thoughts...) – The word grace emphasizes at one and the same time the helpless poverty of man and the limitless kindness of God.

C.S. Lewis (20th century thoughts...) – Grace substitutes a full, childlike, and delighted acceptance of our Need, a joy in total dependence. We become “jolly beggars”.

#3 – MERCY (see Hebrews 4:16)

#4 – PEACE (see John 14:27, Romans 5:1; 14:17)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

- 1) *What do you believe is the main purpose of the local church?*
- 2) *Who is your Timothy?*
- 3) *Are you making an eternal impact in someone else’s life?*
- 4) *Are you trying to live this life in your own strength or in the resources that God has offered to give?*