



2026 THE YEAR OF THE PASTOR

"I will give you shepherds according to my heart."
Jeremiah 3:15

Until the Last One Hears

Greetings,

What an honor it is to labor alongside you in the Kingdom of God. I pray that each of you is blessed beyond measure by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

It is no secret that pastoring in the world we live in today is challenging. We are often expected to be everything to everyone. The weight of preaching the gospel, visiting hospitals, counseling families through difficult seasons, striving to be the spouse God has called us to be, and, for many, working a secular job can feel overwhelming. The load is heavy.

When we look at the state of the world, we see anger, hostility, division, self-centered living, loss of self-control, moral confusion, identity crises, sexual immorality, addiction in many forms, domestic violence, sex trafficking, mental health struggles, unfaithfulness in relationships, broken finances, and hunger; to name only a few. The world seems overwhelmed by life itself, even before addressing the political tensions of our time.

However, let me encourage you for a moment. In the midst of all this darkness, we carry the light of Christ. We have the answer the world is searching for. True fulfillment is found in the gospel of Jesus Christ. We must once again view humanity through God's lens and hold a high expectation of His power to turn fallen people back to Himself. God's heart for His creation has not changed.

Luke records Jesus saying, *"For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost"* (Luke 19:10, NKJV).

Peter writes, *"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance"* (2 Peter 3:9, NKJV).

Paul reminds us in his letter to Timothy, *"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth"* (1 Timothy 2:3–4, NKJV).

We are also familiar with Jesus' final command, recorded by Matthew:
"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations... teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19–20, NKJV).

From this, we clearly see that God desires all to come to repentance, and He chooses to work through us as the means of carrying the gospel.

For our sense of overwhelm to be transformed into passion for the lost, we must be refreshed in **why** we share the gospel. When we view the world broadly, it is easy to lose urgency. But when we consider *who* the lost are, desperation is revived. The “why,” in its simplest form, is this:

- Family members who are lost
- Friends who are lost
- Church members who are lost
- Neighbors who are lost
- A nation that is ungodly and lost
- A world that is broken and lost
- Hell is a real place for those who do not know Jesus
- God desires relationship with all His creation
- Jesus will return when all have had the opportunity to receive Him

The need for the gospel is real, and the urgency is undeniable. There are people standing in the balance of eternity without knowing Jesus Christ as the Savior of their lives, many of whom we love and interact with daily. The question is: **How do we reach them?**

I believe reaching the lost is simple. It takes courage, but we have been anointed for the task. When we are spiritually motivated by passion for the lost, the process begins with a few foundational steps.

First, we must pray for the lost.

Paul writes, “*Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved*” (Romans 10:1, NKJV). Intercession is the water that nourishes a planted seed and gives it life. We must earnestly pray for those who do not know Jesus to encounter Him intimately. Even Jesus prayed for future believers. However, our prayers must have legs.

Second, we must be intentional.

Jesus went out of His way to meet a Samaritan woman at a well. He taught about the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the prodigal son. As pastors, we must not be afraid to follow God’s vision beyond the church doors. This means meeting needs in our communities, engaging in charitable work, and allowing people to see the hands and feet of Jesus through us. Intentionality goes far beyond a Sunday service. God has empowered, anointed, and given you vision. *You are the leader; follow the vision.*

Third, we must share our story.

I am reminded of the blind man who, when asked how he was healed, simply said, “*I was blind, and now I see.*” Every testimony is unique, and no one can tell your story like you can. Do not be afraid to share how God redeemed, delivered, healed, restored, and anointed you. Your story is powerful, and the lost need to hear it.

Paul writes to the Colossians, *“Praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ... that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak”* (Colossians 4:3–4, NKJV).

This is my prayer today, that God would open doors of opportunity for us to share the gospel with those we love. May we walk in the authority given to us through Jesus Christ, through prayer, intentionality, empowering others, and boldly sharing our story.

Together, we can change the world. We are called to serve, designed to build, and commissioned to labor **until the last one hears.**

God bless you.

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