



THE WORD *Alive*

The Preaching Ministry of
Ashley River Baptist Church

THE MESSAGE OF OUR MISSION

Various Scriptures

As Christians we are called to be on mission of taking the Gospel to the world. In so doing, we must be careful to present it truthfully and accurately, and not simply to achieve numerical results. Consider the elements of the Gospel message we are to deliver:

I. BE HONEST

Openly and honestly acknowledge the reality of failure and frustration in life, even for God's people.

Ruth 1:20 "Don't call me Naomi," she told them. "Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. 21 I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The Lord has afflicted me;"

Psalms 23:4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

People are more willing to respond to the Gospel when we are honest in admitting the reality of hardship in life.

II. GIVE WARNINGS

Love demands that we give warning to others of potential pitfalls and patterns of failure we observe in life.

Heb 11:7 By faith Noah, when *warned* about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family.

Psalms 19:9 "...The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous. 10 They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold;..." 11 By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Col. 1:28 "We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ."

Psalms 1:1 "Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers."

Rom 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

III. ENCOURAGE ENDURANCE

As opposed to instant reward, we must affirm the role of courageous commitment and patient endurance in the Christian life of faith.

Hebrews 12: 1 "Therefore...let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame..."

Heb 10:23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

Heb 10:36 You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

James 1:2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith *develops perseverance*. 4 *Perseverance must finish its work* so that you may be *mature and complete*, not lacking anything.

IV. SHARE TESTIMONIES

Hope and strength is derived from examples of people who in Christ have moved victoriously through their difficult ways.

2 Cor 11:23 "... I have been in prison...flogged severely, exposed to death again and again. 24 Five times I received...forty lashes minus one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, 26 "...been in danger from rivers, from bandits, from my own countrymen, from Gentiles, in the city, in the country, at sea; and from false brothers. 27 I have labored and toiled, often gone without sleep; known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked."

Phil 4:13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

Rom 8:37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

V. AFFIRM GOD'S GOODNESS

As we experience God's sufficient amazing grace, we must affirm to others His goodness!

Gen 50:20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

Luke 23:34 "Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

THE INVITATION

The key to the Gospel message is the invitation.

Mt 11:28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

John 1:12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

That is the message of the mission we must share that all may find hope and victory in Jesus Christ.