Acts 21:13 “Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.”

Questions we need to ask and answer:

Why are we here?

Why do we have church?

Why are we called Disciples?

ILL. A church had chicken lunch every Sunday. The chicken lunch got so popular that the started to have chicken lunch more often, then before you know they got rid of church so they can sell chicken lunches.

The church has a purpose statement:

What is the purpose of a purpose statement?- to know why we exist!

1. Chickfila - "To glorify God by being a faithful steward of all that is entrusted to us. To have a positive influence on all who come in contact with Chick-fil-A
2. Wells Fargo mission statement is “we want to satisfy all of our customers' financial needs”
3. Disney's mission statement is “to entertain, inform and inspire people around the globe through the power of unparalleled storytelling, reflecting the iconic brands, creative minds and innovative technologies that make ours the world's premier entertainment company.”

Helmers Street Baptist Church Purpose Statement - To build a family of devoted followers of Christ that worships God, shares Christ’s hope and love, and ministers to each other’s needs.

Church Vision - To make believers out of unbelievers…and disciples out of believers.

We must do God’s Word in a Biblical and Balanced Way –

* Biblical – doing things matching with the Bible.
* Balanced – doing things that are fair and honest.

The Work of God happens with saved and baptized believers!

Here is great tool to use in fulfilling our God given calling-

Christ: the acronym : God’s People will be:

Loving God

1. C-onnected to God through The Word and Prayer
2. H-eart of Worship

Loving People

1. R-elates with other-centered love
2. I-ntentional Evangelism

Living Surrender

1. S-pirit Led Servant
2. T-rustworthy Steward of God’s resources

**Learn these six critical truths of a Believer!**

God’s people will have a heart for Scripture and Prayer

God’s People will have a heart to Worship

God’s People will have a heart to Relate with others

God’s People will have a heart to Evangelize

God’s people will have a heart to be Spirit Led –

God’s people will have a heart to be a Trustworthy Steward.

Let talk about three things today!

Acts 21 v8 The Company of Paul

* Paul eagerness to keep going forward.
* In chapter 21 the disciples are traveling hundreds of miles. From Patara, to Phenicia, then to Cyprus, lastly to Tyre.
* In verse 4 – He finds a group of disciples that he spends seven days with them.
* Spending time in discipleship was always a critical necessity to Paul, for Paul wanted all believers to know and understand the scriptures.

1. How should we love God? Acts 21:13

**Paul and the disciple had a readiness in them**

* What is ready? – We are always ready to eat again; Paul’s ready wasn’t for food but a readiness to die doing the will of the Fatiher.
* Our Savior made the same statement - John 4:34 “Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.
* Readiness is connected with God’s will.
* Like Noah ready to build the Ark. Like the disciples that left all they have to follow Jesus!
* Joke – What treat is never ready? Choco-late.
* Readiness takes focus!
* Abraham told his wife Sarah to make a meal quickly for their quest. Gen.18:6
* Focus on serving and being a servant
* Joseph was ready to meet Jacob His father after many years.
* Gen 46:29 “And Joseph made ready his chariot, and went up to meet Israel his father, to Goshen, and presented himself unto him; and he fell on his neck, and wept on his neck a good while.
* Christ said be ready to meet Him face to face- Mat 24:44 “Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.
* The Lord Jesus was ready to die - Luke 14:17 “Come; for all things are now ready.”
* As Believers we are to preach Christ- Rom 1:15 “So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.
* As Believers we are to be good stewards -1 Tim 6:18
* As Believers we have a ready mind – 2 Cor 8:19

**Paul could not be persuaded to stop doing God’s will-**

Act 21:14 “ And when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, The will of the Lord be done.

* What stops us from doing God’s Will?
* us! We are our greatest enemy!
* Why? Because of the sin that we still needs to be battled.
* Rom 6:1-2 “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?”
* One of the joys about Heaven is that we will not have to battle sin anymore!
* This is why it called out REST - Hebrews 4:9 “There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.”
* Until then we labor for the Lord!
* John 6:27 “Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.
* Our Labor for God has eternal rewards and value. God didn’t make emphasis on earthly things but mainly on heavenly things.
* But there must be a new birth to understand Heavenly things.
* John 3:12 “If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?
* Because we have been changed and transform by the Power of the Holy Spirit in us, we now understand what Heavenly things are!

Ask ourselves Questions like:

How should we love God?

How should we love people?

How should we live surrender?

In the book of Acts we see what it looks like to be saved by God’s grace, then to walk in God’s grace everyday till the day you die!

Let us not forget!

Your Salvation is a gift from God – Eph. 2:8-9

* Free to us but not to God.
* By Grace alone
* Through Faith alone
* In Christ alone
* As we see in the Bible alone

Your walk with God is continued by faith – it could small faith – the amount of Faith is different for everybody! “we need Faith like a mustard seed”

* Your faith saves you “John 1:12
* Your faith keeps you- “sealed till the day of redemption”
* Your faith sends you - “ I wasn’t obedient”
* Your faith changes you – 2 Cor 5:17
* Your faith rewards you Heb 11:6
* Your faith gives you joy and comfort “ 1 Peter 1:8