

Fish with Urgency



The kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have you understood all these things? (Matthew 13:47-51)

- Perhaps the greatest hero of the Titanic was John Harper, who drowned with more than 1,500 people that fateful night in 1912. His last words were:
"_____."
- Harper had something that we must recover if we are to make disciples of all nations:
_____.

1. Jesus is the world's Savior, but He is also its Judge.

We love the idea of Jesus as Savior, but we should also love the idea of Jesus as Judge. Without a judge, there is no justice. And God is a just God.

He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he. (Deuteronomy 32:4)

When justice is done, it brings joy to the righteous but terror to evildoers. (Proverbs 21:15)

The Scriptures promise that Jesus is going to reward those who follow Him and punish those who don't. There is _____.

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. (Matthew 25:31-32)

A time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out-- those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned. (John 5:28-29)

And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:12-15)

God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord (2 Thessalonians 1:6-9)

2. Jesus' question is urgent: _____?

- Look at people in light of eternity. Everyone is going to face God in judgment.

Every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. (Philippians 2:10-11)

- Tell people about Jesus; but _____.
With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." (Acts 2:40)

- Don't be deceived by the evil one's lies. He will try to shut you up.
 - - Lie # 1: "I'm okay and you're okay."

Response: _____.

- - Lie # 2: "Who am I to judge others?"

Response: It is not judging others to tell them about the coming judgment.
Should you tell speeders in a school zone that they might kill children?

- Balance truth with grace. But remember this: Many Americans are not just pagans; they are Christians _____.
 - - Example # 1: "I love you and I'm not giving up on you. But you need to know that one day you will be judged by Christ."
 - - Example # 2: "I love you and I'm not giving up on you. But you need to know that if you forsake the teachings of Christ, Peter says you are worse than an unbeliever. Jesus says you are no longer worthy of His Kingdom."

If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command (2 Peter 2:20-21)

Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God." (Luke 9:62)

3. It's a serious message, but

_____.

Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop-- thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown. (Mark 4:20)

- The only way to know good soil? _____!

