

*Lesson*  
**793**

## THE URGENCY OF OUR TASK

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**MEMORY VERSE:** “I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work” (John 9:4).

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**TEXT:** Luke 13:1-5; Ezekiel 3:17-21; John 4:35-38.

A task is a job, duty or assignment given to someone to carry out. Sometimes a task may be important but not urgent. Also, a task may be important and at the same time urgent. There are few of such tasks. The task of taking the soul-saving gospel to the sinful world is one of such tasks. It is important and very urgent. The consequences of the gospel, if preached, transcend this present world into an endless eternity.

**“Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest”** (John 4:35). The important task of preaching the gospel is very urgent for many reasons. One, the time is short and is running out. The world will soon come to an end (1 Corinthians 7:29-31; 1 John 2:17). Two, our opportunity for service to the Lord will soon come to an end. Three, sinners will not always be ready and willing to hear or listen to the gospel message. Hence, while they are yearning for the truth, we dare not falter to give the gospel (1 Timothy 4:1-5). Four, the time of God’s mercy may soon pass when seekers may not find Him (Isaiah 55:6,7). It is therefore dangerous and of great consequences if we delay or fail to preach the gospel. Every lost opportunity leaves the heart more hardened and



makes it more difficult to repent. Lost days of grace amount to incalculable loss. Therefore, believers must awake to their responsibility of preaching the gospel now. **“Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work”** (John 4:34).

**Question 1: *What are the reasons the preaching of the gospel is very important and urgent?***

**DIVINE RESPONSIBILITY OF SOULWINNERS** (Ezekiel 3:17-21; 2 Kings 9:17-20; Romans 10:13-15; Isaiah 62:6,7; Jeremiah 6:17; Revelation 3:14-22).

**“Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me”** (Ezekiel 3:17).

The work of a watchman is to warn people of impending dangers. Just as prophets were spiritual watchmen in Bible days; so is a soul-winner today. A soulwinner is to warn careless souls of the dangers of sin (Jeremiah 6:17). Sinners inside and outside the church must be warned of the dangers of sin. Everyone should be given the opportunity of hearing the saving gospel of Jesus Christ (Romans 1:16). If they call on the name of the Lord as their personal Lord and Saviour and by faith repent from sin, they would be saved. But refusal brings damnation (Mark 16:15,16).

**Question 2: *What is the duty of a soulwinner as a watchman?***

Our God is a God of justice. He does not act indiscriminately. It is the soul that sins against Him that shall die (Ezekiel 18:4). God will not slay the righteous with the wicked. When a boy or girl sins, the result of his or her act is guilt and condemnation in the heart. If he/she realises his/her state and repents, calls upon God for forgiveness and invite Christ into his/her heart, he/she will be forgiven. The guilt and condemnation are taken away. But if such youth refuses to repent, he/she continue



to bear the burden of sin. He/she risks eternal damnation if no one warns him/her of the evil of his/her ways and shows him/her how to be free. This task of warning the careless and guiding sinners to salvation is not optional but imperative for Christian youths. We are compelled to warn sinners and backsliders to repent or else, they are in danger of hell. Also, our souls are in danger of eternal loss except we warn the careless sinners in and outside the church. **“When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thy hand”** (Ezekiel 3:18).

**DANGER OF REFUSING TO WIN SOULS** (Revelation 3:14-19; Ezekiel 34:1-6; Isaiah 32:9; Matthew 22:5,7; 24:12; John 4:34-38)

**“I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So because thou art lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spew thee out of my mouth”** (Revelation 3:15,16). The Laodicean church was indifferent about spiritual things. Consequently, they were on the verge of getting their relationship with the Lord severed. The case of the Laodicean church is similar to the state of many Christian youths today. Half-heartedness in the service of the Lord has never pleased Him.

**Question 3: *What are the dangers posed by indifference to the urgency of our task?***

Youths who profess devotion to God but fail to respond to the call to rescue the perishing will attract divine condemnation. **“Curse ye Meroz, said the angel of the LORD, curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof; because they came not to the help of the LORD, to the help of the LORD against the mighty”** (Judges 5:23). The inhabitants of Meroz could have been of great help and great service but evidently refused to do so. They were



cursed. The servant who was negligent and careless was not spared of God's judgment and wrath (1 Kings 20:39-43). The slothful servant was condemned and banished into the outer darkness because he failed to utilise his talent profitably (Matthew 25:24-30). Beware!

Indifference to the cry of dying sinners makes God unhappy. He expects that having saved us, He will by us save the world (John 17:20; 21:15-17). To be lukewarm, indifferent, insensitive or nonchalant about the urgency of the task of the preaching the gospel brings damnation. The Lord is calling us to repentance. **"Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh the harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields, that they are white already unto harvest"** (John 4:35). Our response should be: **"I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work"** (John 9:4).

**DIVINE REWARDS FOR SOULWINNING** (John 4:36-38; 15:16; Psalm 126:5,6; Daniel 12:3; Proverbs 11:30; 1 Corinthians 9:19)

**"And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together"** (John 4:36). The labour of soul-winning is not without rewards from the Lord. These rewards are partly in the present time and in the future also. As the harvester rejoices when his fruits are gathered into the storehouse, so the soulwinner has joy when souls are won to the Lord. In fact, the more fruits a harvester gathers, the more he rejoices. In the same vein, the greater the number of souls won to the Lord, the greater the joy of doing the will of God. **"Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples"** (John 15:8).

**"And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever"** (Daniel



12:3). Beyond the present rewards, greater rewards await soul-winners in the future when the saints shall be gathered home in glory. It is an eternal investment that yields great dividends. Whatever you invest in the saving of souls will be returned to you a hundredfold. **“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord”** (1 Corinthians 15:58).

**Question 4: *What are the rewards awaiting soul-winners?***

A songwriter challenged us thus:

“I am thinking today of that beautiful land  
I shall reach when the sun goeth down;  
When thro’ wonderful grace by my Saviour I stand,  
Will there be any stars in my crown?”

In the strength of the Lord let me labour and pray,  
Let me watch as a winner of souls;  
That bright stars may be mine in the glorious day,  
When His praise like the sea billows roll.

Will there be any stars, any stars in my crown,  
When at evening the sun goeth down?  
When I wake with the blest, in the mansions of rest,  
Will there be any stars in my crown?”

<b>DAILY BIBLE READING</b>			
<b>MORNING</b>		<b>EVENING</b>	
SUN	2 Thes	3:1-18	Psalms 61 & 62
MON	“	1:1-11	“ 63 & 64
TUE	“	1:12-20	“ 65-67
WED	“	2:1-15	“ 68
THU	“	3:1-16	“ 69
FRI	“	4:1-16	“ 70 & 71
SAT	“	5:1-16	“ 72

