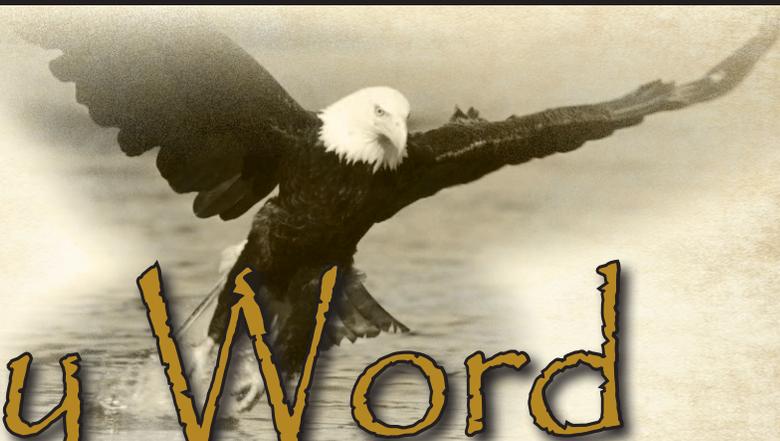


Central Pentecostal Ministries

From the Pulpit...

At Thy Word



Pastor Donald Shoots

“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”

Matthew 24:14

Please allow for a lengthy introduction which focuses on the Word of God.

It has been said on many occasions that Jesus Christ cannot rapture His Church because the gospel of Christ has not been preached to every kindred and tongue around the world. I want to make a slight correction: this scripture is talking about **the end**, not the rapture. That means, **Jesus can come right now and catch His Bride away!** During the tribulation period, some one-hundred and forty-four thousand are going to be sealed and become witnesses of the Kingdom of God and of Christ Jesus. There will be a tremendous amount of activity around the Nation of Israel during the seven-year tribulation. So, we point out that God is not waiting for the gospel to be preached around the world before He raptures His church.

It is important to see the emphasis God places on His **Word** here in Matthew 24:14. The ‘**gospel being preached**’ is the gauge that calls for the end. The Word of God is the element, and manifestation that triggers **the end**! I know, He referenced rumors of wars and that the love of many shall wax cold, but **ultimately we are watching the effects of His Word!** **“The gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached”**. Even though the Gospel is preached, it doesn’t mean everyone will repent. It doesn’t mean that every nation is going to turn and become holy nations unto the Lord. So really that is not the emphasis of this verse, the **emphasis is placed upon everyone hearing and knowing that there is a Kingdom of God!** They’ve acknowledged the kingdom of the world, they’ve acknowledged the kingdom of men, but everyone will hear there is a ‘Kingdom of God!’ The concern is not whether they agree with it, whether they accept it, whether they like it or whether they believe it. He said I want **“this gospel...preached in all the world for a witness”**. For a what? **“For a witness”**. Now you and I would like to put “salvation” there, but that is not what God said. You see, in reality, the fallen world is witnessing against itself and proving that God’s Word is true. You cannot analyze the rise and fall

of yesterday's empires without knowing the Word of God is true. When He talked about men being lovers of themselves more than lovers of God, we clearly see it before us. He is saying here, 'I want it to be a witness, because one day I am going to judge the whole world, and I want to know that they had a witness about my Kingdom. World, did you hear about MY Kingdom? World, did you hear about Jesus Christ and His blood that flowed from the cross for you? World, did you hear about the plan of salvation and the promises of God? Did you hear of the beautiful Trinity, the Father, Son and the Holy Ghost?' It is for a "witness" not necessarily a conversion. In my few short years of ministry, I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost has sent people through this Full-Gospel Church to let them hear the "Gospel of the Kingdom." They went out the other door and stepped into eternity. However, they will not stand before the throne of God and say, 'I never heard.' The gospel is the only remedy for fallen man, for it is the road map to salvation.

This Gospel preached offering eternal life will later be used to accuse and condemn. The Word of God will be conveyed as that which could not be altered by man, time, or conditions. While the clock ticks we are magnifying the truth of God's Word.

Mr. Spurgeon said, "plunge this great gospel under the wave and she rises to the purer from her washing, thrust her in the fire and she comes out the more bright for her burning, cut her in sunder and each piece will make another church, behead her and she shall have a hundred heads for everyone you cut away. She cannot die, she must live, for she has the power of God with her."

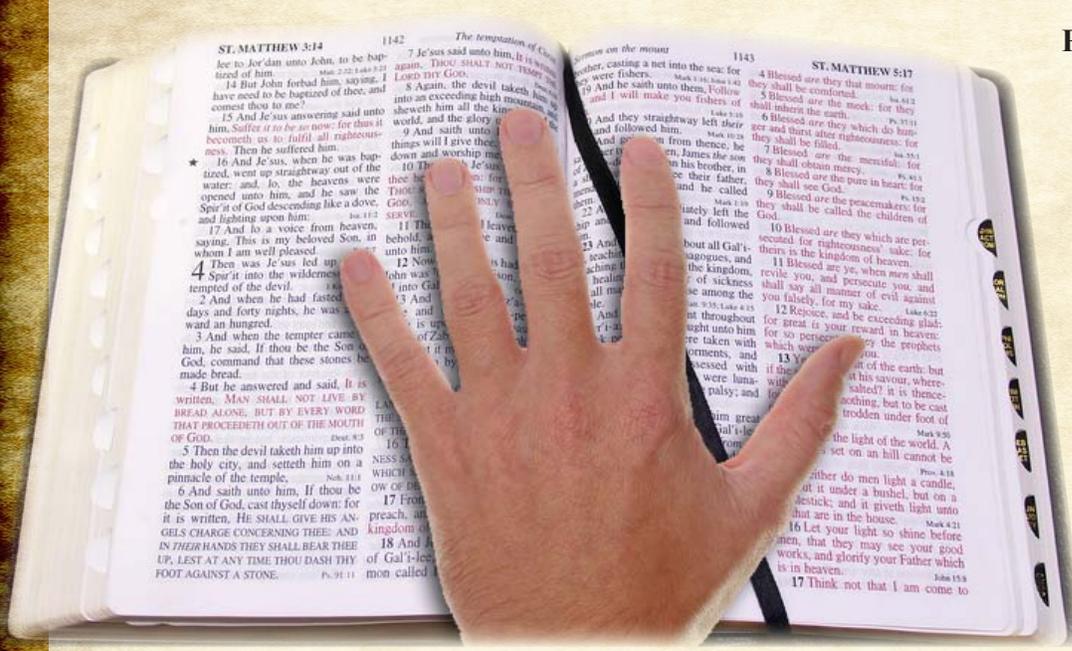
We are talking about the Words of God! It will calculate, gauge and set the clock for the end!

"And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net."

Luke 5:5

Jesus had entered into Simon Peter's ship to teach the people. He was getting crowded on the shoreline, so they then pushed the boat back a little, so He could teach. After He had finished teaching, He said to Simon, "**Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.**" Draught means simply to 'drag your net'. Understand, there is nothing said here of the results to follow when Simon obeys. If we are not careful we will read it to say: 'Simon Peter, throw over your nets, and you will catch a thousand pounds of fish.' We want it to say that, but that is not what it says. Have you ever had God tell you to do something

and because you couldn't figure it out you didn't do it? What Jesus said was, "**Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught**" or 'let down your nets and drag them a while!' Now, if He would have told Peter he was going to catch many fish, we would see this different, but that is not what Jesus said. You won't



have to look very far to know that simple obedience is very rare. When God speaks to us, we immediately ask, 'why?' 'What do I get out of it? What will happen if I obey?' We are talking about the Word of God here. Peter replied, "**Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing:**" Then he said, "**Nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.**"

This was submission to one thing: the Word of God. This is submission to what God said do! No wrangling of the mind, no jerking of the pages of the Greek lexicon of higher learning, but just doing what God said do! 'Peter, let down your nets and drag them a little while,' with no indication whatsoever that anything good or positive was going to come out of it. However, at the same time, everything was contrary to that simple obedience.

Simon Peter heard the Words of Christ; that was personally spoken to him. God also spoke to Shemaiah in 1 Kings 12:22 and to Nathan in 1 Chronicles 17:3 and to John in Luke 3:2 and He is going to speak to every other man too! All Peter had to act on was the Word of the Lord. 'Give us a vision of the blessing that will come when we obey your Word, and then we will obey.' It was submission to one thing in Simon Peter's life, submission to the Word of God while everything else was contrary to it!

The Words of God are the marching orders for every saint.

Do you know why Noah toiled one-hundred and twenty years against all contradiction of his time? Because God told him to build an ark! We must consider this for a moment: what if Jesus would have gone ahead and told Noah that there wouldn't be but eight people in the Ark at the end of these 120 years? I know people in the religious world who would have faded away like fog on a sunny morning. If I can't get a good deal, if I can't get a big blessing, I am not going to answer the '**thus saith the Lord**.' Noah built the Ark because it was in obedience to the Word of God! Abraham left everything he had to move to Canaan. They did so because of the Word of God! God's Word governed the beginning and will govern the end. So why in the world don't we let Him govern our lives by His Word?

There was a world outside watching as Peter was going to reveal one of two things: He has lost his mind, or he has become a believer. Now you don't have to do a lot of historical research, but almost every reasonable marina or port has lots of boats in it. So when you come in to tie up your boat, normally there are other boats tied pretty close to your boat! Now we have this one boat sticking out. All the boats are in the port except one boat. Surely people began to look on and notice the difference. Have you ever felt that before? They looked at Peter thinking surely he is making a mistake and needs to come in and wash his nets. They watched Simon Peter, sticking out like a sore thumb to carnal people. Nobody is doing what he is doing. Nobody is obeying Christ like he is obeying Christ. Nobody is walking by faith like he is walking by faith. The pressure of our world and even sometimes our friends say to not obey God. Peter says this, '**nevertheless**'. Nevertheless means 'in spite of.' If there isn't an 'in spite of' there is probably no virtue in what you are doing. If there is no contradiction to the life of Christ, you have to wonder if there is a life of Christ in you. If you've never run into the powers of darkness or never heard the lies from hell, it's time to take inventory. If you've never sensed the darkness trying to press on your mind and your emotions, you might want to check your salvation. Simon Peter is very transparent here. He says, '**nevertheless**' or 'in spite of' all of these things and all of these other fishermen watching me in the church. In spite of all of these religious people watching me with their ideals and their persuasions and their theology, in spite of all of that, I am going to obey the Words of Christ! Don't ignore that which presses against the Will of God, rather, acknowledge it, for it is probably a **verification** that you are in the Will of God! If the devil never buffets you, chances are you are not going with God. Opinions are

never very far away, and if you start paying attention to them, you will be amazed at how many there are. This is how it kind of could have gone: ‘Peter, listen, Jesus, He is not a fisherman. What you need to do is explain to Him that we do most of our fishing at night. He is a good teacher, now, don’t get me wrong, I like the man. I’m not critical of the church (I mean of Jesus), but Jesus is a teacher, not a fisherman. I know it’s your life, your livelihood, and your boat, but this is what I would do. We’ve been doing this a long time. So you tell Jesus that He doesn’t quite know what we know.’ The masses with their self-indulging lives are ever before us and satan is not far from that, with his lies of subtlety.

We are talking about God’s Word! First of all, Simon is disappointed, he has toiled all night and caught nothing. Do you think God will talk when a man is disappointed? Sometimes when we are disappointed that is when we can hear Him the best! Also, he was just flat out tired; he had been out fishing all night. ‘Of all times for Jesus to show up.’ The sun was coming up, and to Peter that looked like the wrong time, but to God it was the right time! Jesus said, “**Let down your nets.**”

Often times when God speaks to our heart, we go into this analytical mode. Yes, we should study to show ourselves approved and rightly divide the Word of God. We should use wisdom and pray for wisdom. However, at some point, you have to understand that **it is you and God, and God is talking to you.** In Ex 5:1 Moses to Pharaoh, “**thus saith the Lord God of Israel, let my people go.**” Well, it was a long time coming, but do you know what happened? They got out. They got out because God said they were getting out. ‘It doesn’t look like they are,’ **Yet God said they are getting out!** “**Nevertheless, at thy word**”! Peter said, ‘I am going to start dragging this net. Whatever happens, happens, and whatever doesn’t happen, doesn’t happen. Today **I am dragging this net.** Fish or no fish, they can laugh at me, point fingers and mock me, but **At Thy Word, I will drag this net.**’

Right now there are those who are in the valley of decision. You have heard God’s Word, but you questioned it at every turn. God is trying to talk to you, but you are not accepting what He is saying to you. You want answers before you obey. We would all like to see the nets full of fish before we wrestle with casting them out and dragging them, but we don’t always get to see that! **So, it comes down to whether we will obey Christ or not. If He told you to do something, don’t be distracted by the results of it.** Many are hanging their nets up and going home, but hopefully not you. The sun is coming up, and to men, this is a bad time to do this, ‘**but I am doing it.**’ Nevertheless, at thy word, I will obey! No matter the voices or opinions, we must say, “At thy word, Lord, I will!”

Central Pentecostal Ministries



Worshipping God in the Spirit of Pentecost

The purpose of this publication is to benefit those truly seeking to follow Jesus Christ. If you or someone you know would be encouraged and strengthened by receiving these Full-Gospel messages, please contact us at:

Central Pentecostal Ministries

P.O. Box 1558 - Lynn Haven, FL 32444 - (850) 785-2662 or www.centralpmi.org