

# LIVING OUT OUR CALLING IN A CRAZY WORLD, PART 2

**Sunday, 11 AM, November 8, 2026**
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**Review:**

- Last week was **Part 1** of a two-part special lesson series I have called **Living Out Our Calling in a Crazy World.** This week is **Part 2.**
- A lot has happened in our nation and in our world in the past seven days. Not much of it is good. I think the things we are learning in this two-part series are very timely.
- The fact remains that God does not expect His followers to be controlled by the chaos and craziness around us.
- Instead, He expects us to faithfully fulfill our calling regardless of the circumstances we find ourselves in.
- Last time we were together, we learned a number of important things about what it means to "live out our calling" in these times of chaos and confusion:
  - **First, we need to properly recognize these are *"perilous times"*** and they are going to get worse. Things are going downhill, and humanity is going to continue to deteriorate in its conduct and choice. We are living in the last days.
  - **Second, we are called to understand.** There are no trophies given to anyone who chooses to be ignorant, and part of understanding is being a difference-maker. We are supposed to positively impact those around us.
  - **Third, we are called to be watchful.** As such, we cannot stay still or silent, we are supposed to warn others, and this watchfulness requires our constant anticipation and preparedness for Jesus Christ's return.
  - **Fourth, we are called to be 'vexed.'** Just as Lot was vexed by the culture and sin around him, so we ought to be displeased and bothered by the corruption in our world and in the culture around us. If it's no big deal to us – that's an indication of a spiritual problem.
  - **Fifth, we are called to 'resist,'** – not violently in the way those on the left do, but in the way God has called us to do. That means, we need to resist those processes which seek to pull people away from God's laws, away from Godly living, away from Godly values, and away from Godly truth. This is part of being 'salt' (which preserves) and 'light' (which exposes).
  - **Sixth, we must 'endure patiently.'** A hallmark of showing spiritual maturity is to not scream at the news or get worked up about this fallen world. Things are rough, and they are getting rougher. But keeping a proper **eternal** perspective is STILL the order of the day for TRUE believers - - it's about the long haul of life.

- **Seventh, we are called to speak the truth.** Sure - truth is unpopular, and lies are being elevated. Even in the church, the goal is often to not offend those who don't like the truth. But we are called to speak the truth, even if that comes with consequences and persecution.
- **(And lastly) we are called to be awake and sober.** We are not supposed to be unaware or lose self-control. We are not supposed to become radicals – or permit the foundation of God's Word to get chipped away in our lives. We are supposed to stay well-grounded in Christ - and not become a product of this age and culture.

**NOTE:** One way of looking at this two-part series is to regard the last lesson as being more of an action plan. That was about things God's Word says we need to DO in this crazy world.

Today's lesson, **part 2,** is more directed to what we need to BE. The focus today is about things we need to personally commit to BEING as far as our calling in Christ is concerned. There are various passages of Scripture we will be looking at.

**A. We need to BE people who comprehend the times without becoming consumed by them.**

**NOTE:** I had a meeting with a pastor friend this week. It had been many years since I had seen him. It was a good visit, but he – like so many others – was bothered by the fact that I gave any attention to the prophetic Scriptures. He was bothered by my boldness, and that I had (what'd he say?) a 'strong personality'" with my convictions.

I told him, "Deal with it." He has let the modern 'lukewarm' church culture affect the standards he should be embracing. This has become so cliché in our times.

The Bible makes the very clear point that we are to understand the world without allowing it to define us ***(Cf. 2 Timothy 3:10–17; READ!)***

*"You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."*

**QUESTION:** "How do we comprehend the times without being consumed by them?" Or asked another way, "How do we stay watchful and understanding without becoming a victim of our culture?"

1. **We should expect the world to become increasingly hostile to Biblical truth.**
    - For many followers of Jesus Christ, their anxiety and frustration hit a high mark with the midterms this past week. Here's a wake-up call…
    - Political candidates and proposals which go AGAINST the values and instructions of Scripture will continue to find growing support among millions of Americans.
    - Ideas that were once considered radical are now considered mainstream. Proper BIBLICAL convictions are now seen as outdated, intolerant, or even dangerous.
    - But remember what studies have shown: **only 11% of adults that attend evangelical Protestant churches claim to have a Biblical worldview.**
    - The hard truth is we have very few good warriors in our ranks. The tough fact is church leaders today are bothered by the prophetic Word of God – and some studies say up to 98% of them don't want anything to do with it.
    - That's why it's so important to embrace the truth that *"ALL Scripture is God-breathed."* All Scripture is useful. ALL Scripture equips us for good work - - not just the parts we wish to pay attention to.

**NOTE:** So - - how can we reasonably expect our culture that is increasingly hostile to God's laws and values to make choices and support decisions which find their source in God's Word? **The answer is we cannot.**

2. **What are we instructed to BE from *2 Tim. 3:10-17?* Two things:**
    - **#1,** we must be one that 'stays the course of our calling in Christ,' despite our persecutions.
        - Paul reminded Timothy of the times and places he was oppressed.
        - Paul also reminded Timothy of his own *"way of life, purpose, faith, patience, love, and endurance."*
        - It goes with the territory. Paul says, *"all those who want to live a Godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted."*
        - You cannot be a faithful citizen of heaven and be welcomed and loved by the citizens of this earth. You cannot have it both ways - - not if you are REALLY wanting to *"live a Godly life in Christ Jesus."*
    - **#2,** we must be one that continues to rely on the truth of God's Word.
        - Paul says, *"continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of….you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."*
        - In my visit with my pastor friend this week, we talked about some people we knew in common that had NOT *"continued in what they had learned."*
        - These people had fallen far away from the faith. They demonstrated by their choices that they no longer relied on the truth of God's Word.

- They had made a profession of faith and some had even been baptized. But the lures and troubles of THIS life had drawn them away from the truth.
- They showed they did not have real fruit. They were not the real deal.

**NOTE: Here are the brass tacks. Here's the tough truth we need to face up to:**

- ✓ When life throws us curve balls and painful lessons – we need to continue to rely on the truth of God's Word.
- ✓ When we face periods of frustration and fear – we need to continue to rely on the truth of God's Word.
- ✓ When we have more questions than we have answers – we need to continue to rely on the truth of God's Word.
- ✓ When others around us are wandering away from the faith – we need to continue to rely on the truth of God's Word.
- ✓ When our culture embraces radical ideas, and when it calls the Bible 'hateful or intolerant' – we need to continue to rely on the truth of God's Word.

**NOTE:** You and I are not supposed to be measured by the standards of this world. We may live in this world, but we are not to be "OF" it ***(Cf. John 17:16).***

**B. (Let's look at another element of what we need to be). We need to BE responsible to the duties we've been called to carry out.**
**NOTE:** Said another way, we cannot allow our difficult conditions to distract us from our divine assignment.
**NOTE:** There are SO MANY examples I could provide at this juncture, but let me identify **three of them** that we need to give special emphasis to in these crazy times:

1. **First, we need to BE people that produce good works *(Cf. Eph. 2:10)* -** *"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."*
    - The Berean Standard Bible translation concludes this verse by saying our good works should be *"our way of life."* It should be our normal routine.
    - The Bible does not teach 'retirement.' You won't find anyone in God's Word that 'retired' in their older years. That's a cultural concept, but it's not a Biblical one – contrary to what some 'Christian' financial advisors teach.
    - You and I are *"created to do good works,"* and there is no time constraint on that, nor is there any limit to the various opportunities for *"good works*."
    - Those of you who are elderly and are in that so-called 'age of retirement,' you are now blessed with time and resources – to *"do good works."*
    - Look around and consider how you might be a difference maker. It's a crazy world, but you have a calling that has **no expiration date**. God wants you to do good works. Consider the ways your age, wisdom, and resources can accomplish that.

- Those of you who are younger - you can be a difference maker too. You have youth, stamina, vigor, and energy that your older counterparts do not have.
- You have networks and followers. You have relationships that desperately need your good example. You have technical savvy that others don't.
- So, what are you doing with all those things? Are you being a difference-maker? Are you doing *"good works"* with what you have?

**NOTE:** It seems we are never content at any age. When we are younger, we wish we had the resources and lifestyle that older generations have. The older generations wish they had the energy, drive, and physical capacity the younger generations have.

- If there's a lesson here, it is this: we need to work together. There is strength in the diversity of the body of Christ.
- Meantime - don't limit what "good works" can be: start a prayer group and be devoted to building that up over time. It won't be easy, but it is SO vital.
- Make it a choice to visit and spend time with those who are hurting or are suffering health setbacks. Carve out a slice of your life to make an impact.
- Find out who needs help with house projects, yard cleaning, car repair, and so on. If you can 'do good works' to make a difference, then do it!
- Make it a goal to introduce yourself to someone you don't know: a waitress, the kid drawing in his sketchpad at the local coffee shop, and so on.
- Get to know them a bit – get their contact info and be a good friend to them. God may use your "good works" to bring another soul into His kingdom.

2. **Second (and this pivots off the last point I made), we need to BE people that 'preach the Word' *(Cf. 2 Tim. 4:2-5)* -** "*Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.*"

   **NOTE: I was intentional in putting this point into my outline.** Some of you may be tempted to say, "But I'm not a preacher. I'm not a teacher." (Hear me out).

   - You ARE called to proclaim the truth – *"in season and out of season."* We are ALL supposed to be that sort of person.
     - This is less an issue of your gifting and more an issue of what we learned last week: **you are called to speak the truth.**
     - And this passage says you need to be prepared. It says you need patience and you need to be instructive to others with CARE.
     - You cannot be those things if you do not know what *'sound doctrine'* is. If you are a follower of 'church culture' more than a follower of Jesus Christ, you will not embrace the deep truths of God's Word.

- **Here's the kicker from this passage.** We are to BE effective in correcting, rebuking, and encouraging. We are to BE level-headed folk who endure hardship, and who direct other people to gain salvation.
    - But we cannot BE any of those things if we are not grounded in sound doctrine.
    - We cannot BE any of those things if we are passively drifting along with those who have elevated the traditions of modern church culture to near-theological status.
    - We cannot BE any of this if we are questioning and turning away from the truth just like our culture is doing.
    - **(I want to make a point here):** *"Preaching the Word, and being prepared in season and out of season"* has more to do with jumping in and doing what you can with what you know, than it has to do with staying on the sidelines because you feel you don't know enough.

**NOTE: There's ALWAYS an excuse for not *'preaching the Word."*** There's ALWAYS an excuse to let someone else do that. There's ALWAYS an excuse to 'float down the river with all the other dead fish.' There's ALWAYS an excuse to lose your cool or justify your fears.

The problem is – NONE of those excuses are given a pass by Jesus Christ. He is **still** in the business of taking your "five loaves and two fishes" and doing an extraordinary work through what you bring.

Don't limit Him by limiting your calling. Act in faith and trust Him for the results. In a world that's gone totally crazy, even a little salt and light can make a big difference.

3. **And third, we need to BE people that fulfill The Great Commission *(Cf. Matthew 28:19–20)*** – *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*
   **NOTE:** Let me share with you what someone in SBC recently shared with me that I received with great comfort. It is often true that you cannot BE all these things at once.
    - Yes, we are called to represent Jesus Christ **wherever** God has placed us.
    - Yes, we are called to proclaim the truth boldly – and if necessary, even having a strong personality like Elijah did, or John the Baptist had. The Bible says we are not to have a *"spirit of fear and timidity"* ***(Cf. 2 Tim. 1:7).***
    - Yes, we are called to make disciples, to serve others, and to demonstrate (at all times) a Christlike character.
    - **But no –** we may not always be pivotal in the ENTIRE PROCESS. Sometimes we do the planting, sometimes we do the watering, sometimes we do the harvesting - - and sometimes….**sometimes**….God permits us to have an active role in all three phases ***(Cf. 1 Cor. 3:6-9).***

- Our goal – regardless – should be to fulfill The Great Commission. Our goal – regardless – should be to BE the kind of person that God can work IN and THROUGH to achieve these critical objectives that are part of our faith.
- We must not allow fear, discouragement, or cultural opposition to silence our witness.
- The world's spiritual condition is sliding down very fast, but that should increase our commitment to the Gospel, not diminish it.
- If the world is becoming increasingly hostile to the truth of God's Word, shouldn't that make our witness to the world even **more important?** Yes!

**LET ME START THE WIND-DOWN PROCESS HERE:**

- We live in crazy times, for sure. We should not be surprised when the world becomes increasingly hostile to Biblical truth.
- But part of our calling is to properly distinguish between being informed about world events and becoming consumed or disheartened by them.
- We are called to be aware of prophetic developments. They should produce in us a spiritual alertness, not anxiety or any affection for sensationalism.
- We must consciously resist allowing the world's instability – or the feckless nature of the lukewarm modern church - to become a controlling factor in our lives.
- When we spend more time and energy improperly reacting to what is happening in the world rather than performing our calling in Christ Jesus, then we show that we have forgotten where our citizenship truly lays.
- Our identity and allegiance must remain firmly established in Christ. We may live in this world, but our ultimate allegiance belongs to another and far greater kingdom.
- We are to BE followers of Jesus Christ that are not swayed by political movements, cultural erosion, national crises, fraudulent events, or worldly ideologies.
- Notice the process of our lesson today: it follows a responsible flow.

    - ✓ **First, we need to BE people that show good works.**
    - ✓ **Second, we need to BE people that 'preach the Word.'**
    - ✓ **And third, we need to BE people that fulfill The Great Commission.**

**NOTE:** Here are some bullet-point takeaways from this lesson and the last one:

- We need to exercise commitment instead of compromise.
- We need to display courage instead of cowardice.
- We need to show discernment instead of supporting deception.
- We need to demonstrate action instead of apathy.
- We need to show discipline instead of discouragement.
- (And) we need to show spiritual diligence instead of worldly distraction.

**Let me end by asking you 3 questions that I want you to prayerfully ponder for yourself:**

**#1, what is distracting me?** Am I allowing the craziness of this world to consume the time, attention, and energy that I should be devoting instead to God's purpose for my life?

**#2, what is God calling me to do?** Am I actively fulfilling my responsibilities as a Christian, or have I become a spectator to the battles I need to be a part of?
**(And) #3, what will I be found doing when Jesus Christ returns?** Am I living with the sort of spiritual alertness, faithfulness, and urgency that marks one who genuinely believes Jesus Christ's return is imminent?

I encourage you to pray about these questions. The wrong answers will keep you from your calling. The right answers will put you squarely in the middle of what you NEED to be doing.

**NEXT WEEK:** We return to our study in ***1 Thessalonians*.** I hope this special two-part series has provoked you in all the right ways.

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Solid Bread Community was started with a passion to teach the truth of God's Word – every part of it, as it was divinely inspired to be understood.

The rules are simple. First, teach what IS there. Don't pretend the Bible is not saying what it is saying.

Second, don't teach what is NOT there. Don't force a passage to mean something it really doesn't.

And – number three, if the Bible states it plainly, we should too.

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