

“T-Time”

Introduction:

- Series GAME TIME
 - What time is it?Response? HaHa GAME TIME/INVITE TIME
- Been talking about Urgent/ Critical Time in the life of the Church, especially in US
 - “The Great Opportunity”. Church in decline
- It’s GameTime for the Church, but
 - LUKEWARM, APATHETIC CHURCH
 - COMPLACENT FEARFUL PASTORS
 - In Revelation, Jesus is talking, not Paul, not John,
 - Tells them things like you’ve lost your 1st love, you are allowing false doctrine, putting up with false prophets, you’re Lukewarm
 - Not more small groups, better music, family night suppers, relevant children’s ministry
 - Those things are good, but not the point
 - Jesus= visit the sick, in prison, widows, orphans
 - Revelation 3:14-22 NIV ““To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation. I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.””
 - Sounds a lot like the mindset of the Church in the US
 - Suburbanism, Good job, good family, Why do I need God?
 - Our primary task as the Church to help get as many people as possible on Team Jesus

- There is a world in need of RESCUE
- Church needs to grow...so the KINGDOM grows! (bottom line)
- Invite Time
 - #1 factor for church growth= Personal Invitation
 - Struggle to invite others
 - Invitation is actually simple and easy
 - Work of salvation belongs to the Lord, pressure on him
 - Gave practical ways to invite last week
 - Come and see
 - Check it out
 - Don't have to have all the answers (Bible/theology)
 - Cards to put in hand

THIS WEEK - T-TIME

- Not golf
- Not drinking a hot beverage with the Queen of England (Although that would be pretty cool)
- T= stands for A word that brings mixed emotions, a word that brings fear and trembling to the hearts of most people...testimony,

TENSION/COMMON GROUND

For a lot of people, the thought of sharing our 'testimony' brings fear and trepidation. we like to keep our faith close to our chest, we see it as something personal that we don't necessarily share with others. The thought of sharing personal testimony can be scary because we don't know what to say or we don't want to 'mess it up'. All in all it may just boil down to a fear being known and vulnerable, like if you knew my stuff, you wouldn't like me. But, the testimony of followers of Jesus is a vital tool to helping unbelievers on their journey towards belief.

Romans 10: 9-13 NIV

9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

- This is the 'how to' of becoming a believer
 - It's not magic
 - Prayer
 - Don't have to come to altar
 - Make it something that it is not
 - Here it is
 - Work of the Spirit
 - Believe in Heart/Confess with mouth
 - Simple
 - Said that a lot this series
 - We make things a lot harder than they really are
 - Matthew 15:18a (NIV)

18 But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart
 - What are we confessing?
 - 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 (NIV)

1 Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance[a]: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. 6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same

time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8 and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

9 For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. 11 Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

11 As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” 12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, 13 for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

- Climbing Wauka Mountain as a kid
- **Worship Note: Believing** in Jesus is **Base Camp** (Chad Norris)
 - Paint the picture of getting unbelievers to base camp
 - Base Camp Image
 - Base Camp= if you don't believe, now is the time
 - Urgent
 - Hell is a real place, eternity separated from God
 - Time to get to Base Camp
 - Ascending the mountain of God, getting to the pinnacle
 - Growing in intimacy
 - Friendship with the Father is obedience
 - Follow me vs. Believe in Me
 - Base Camp

- Can't stay there forever
 - Been a believer for 40 years
 - BC=Belief
 - Even demons believe
 - No better than demons?
 - Follow Me= Become more like Jesus
 - Can't stay at BC, must continue to follow
- Focus
 - Getting unbelievers to base camp
 - God's part
 - Grace
 - Holy Spirit Convincing and convicting
 - Our part
 - Invite (Last week)
 - Testimony

14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15 And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

- What is Testimony
 - **Worship Note:** Testimony is **sharing** about the **hope** that is in us
 - 1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

15 But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,
 - Hebrews 6:19 We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain,
 - Testifying to Christ, resurrection, with Jesus death not the end, what sets us apart from other religions
 - EVERYONE NEEDS HOPE
 - Spirit of depression and self harm
 - All have a testimony

- Our / your testimony matters, even if don't think important or worth hearing
 - it might be just what somebody else NEEDS to hear
 - ILLUSTRATION...often feel like we are the only one that goes through stuff...alcoholic parent, parenting struggle, etc.
 - Answering the question, "What has Jesus done for you lately?"
 - Could be part of salvation story if recently saved
- How to Testify or Share Testimony
 - Prepare
 - Get our story on paper
 - Prepare it to Share it

Worship Note: We gotta prepare it so that we can share it!

- 30 Second elevator speech
 - 'Sell it'
 - Ready to elaborate
 - Answer any questions
- Planting a seed - may be one in long line of people
 - Stat about # of times hear about Jesus, etc
- Keep eyes / ears open for Opportunities
 - 'Godincidences'

Guidance for Life's Adventure:

Coach Gilstrap Pep Talk

- Time to get out there and give your testimony
- Important
- Be a seed
- Get people to base camp
- Time for you to leave base camp
 - Part of that is telling others about Jesus
 - Ascend mountain of God through obedience