

Introduction

1. The great commandment in the law ([Mk. 12:28-31](#))
 - a. I have responsibility toward God
 - b. I have responsibility toward my fellow man
 - i. I must treat him the way I would want to be treated ([Mt. 7:12](#))
 - c. God wants total commitment from me
2. Commitment defined (Merriam-Webster)
 - a. Commit: “to obligate or pledge oneself; an act of committing to a charge or trust; the state or an instance of being obligated or emotionally impelled”
 - i. Pledge: “a binding promise or agreement to do”
 - ii. Impel: “to urge or drive forward or on by or as if by the exertion of strong moral pressure; to impart motion to: propel; move”
3. A charge to keep ([Mt. 28:18-20](#); [Mk. 16:15-16](#); [Lk. 24:46-47](#))
 - a. A charge that was kept ([Col. 1:23](#))
 - b. A tragedy if we neglect the charge ([Jdg. 2:10](#); [2 Th. 1:7-9](#))
4. It is obedience to the Gospel that saves souls ([1 Cor. 15:1-8](#); cf. [Jm. 1:21](#))
 - a. We plant and water, but God gives the increase ([1 Cor. 3:5-7](#))
 - b. I must preach the Word of God ([Rm. 10:13-14](#); [1 Cor. 1:21-24](#))
 - i. The Gospel is God’s power to save ([Rm. 1:16-17](#))

No Time To Waste

1. Time is short, and eternity is long
 - a. Teach us to number our days ([Ps. 90](#))

- b. Our life is a vapor ([Jm. 4:14](#))
 - i. The wicked have fewer years ([Pr. 10:27](#); cf. [Pr. 27:1](#))
- c. Knowing the terror of the Lord we persuade men ([2 Cor. 5:10-11](#))
 - i. persuade (*peitho* G3982 pi´-tho) bringing about a change of mind by the influence of reason or moral considerations (Vine 469)
- d. The message is urgent
 - i. “People need to know that your care before they care what you know”
 - ii. Not always applicable (cf. [1 Kgs. 22:1-14](#))
 - iii. Preach the Word now (cf. [2 Cor. 6:2](#))
- 2. Once Saul was converted, he went right to preaching ([Acts 9:17-22](#))
 - a. He clearly understood the charge of Christ and the urgency of the message
 - b. When Paul received the “Macedonian call” he did not delay ([Acts 16:6-10](#))
 - i. The church at Philippi would be established not long after (cf. [Acts 16:12-34](#))
- 3. The Christ was urgent in His mission to seek and to save the lost ([Lk. 19:10](#))
 - a. Christ preached ([Mk. 1:14-15](#))
 - b. He kept moving ([Mk. 1:35-39](#); [Jn. 4:4](#))

In The Face of Opposition

- 1. Not everyone will accept the message preached ([Acts 28:23-24](#))
 - a. Do not be weary in well doing ([Gal. 6:9](#))
- 2. The church grew in the face of opposition
 - a. Saul persecuted the church, but they continued to preach ([Acts 8:3-4](#))

3. Paul published (to carry through; “was spread abroad” ASV) the word of the Lord wherever he went ([Acts 13:49](#))
 - a. Persecution came but he kept going ([Acts 13:50-51](#))
 - b. The appropriate reaction to persecution for Christ is joy ([Acts 13:52](#))
 - c. Souls would be saved in the next city ([Acts 14:1](#))
 - d. Later, Paul was stoned but kept going and exhorted others to do the same ([Acts 14:19-22](#))

It Is Who I Am

1. Who am I?
 - a. I died when I was baptized into Christ ([Rm. 6:1-11](#))
 - b. I am a new creature ([2 Cor. 5:17](#); [Col. 3:10](#))
 - c. Christ lives in me ([Gal. 2:20](#); [Phil. 1:21](#))
 - d. I die daily ([1 Cor. 15:31](#); [Col. 3:3](#))
 - e. I am conformed (similar form, nature, or style) to the image of Christ ([Rm. 8:29](#))
2. Commitment to saving souls must be who I am
 - a. Paul’s manner (custom; repeated practice) was to preach ([Acts 17:1-4](#))
 - b. No room for complacency ([Acts 17:16-17](#))
 - c. It requires boldness and adaptability ([Acts 19:8-10](#))
 - d. It requires no fear and persistence ([Mt. 19:13-14](#))
 - e. A daily task ([Lk. 9:23](#), [19:47](#); [Acts 17:11](#))
3. The proper attitude makes a big difference
 - a. I must preach the gospel ([1 Cor. 9:16](#))

b. I am a debtor ([Rm. 1:14-15](#))

Conclusion

1. Make sure my own soul is saved ([Phil 2:12](#); [Acts 2:40](#))
2. There is no time to waste for a single soul is worth more than all the world ([Mt. 16:26](#))
3. When persecution comes for the cause of Christ I must keep going
4. I am committed to saving souls because I have given all to God
5. I am committed to saving souls because I love my neighbor as myself
6. Let us help others hear “well done” ([Mt. 25:21](#))