

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Has God got your attention? Are you paying any attention to God? I believe the events of our day are God's way to wake us up to what is truly important in life. We can no longer get away with ignoring God. God is orchestrating events and occurrences to show all of us that yes, God is alive, and it is time we face this reality. **1. There is nothing more important in life than in being in a close relationship with God and worshipping together with God's people.**

To ignore God and to stay away from the church is no longer an option if we are to face these difficult days with courage and actually thrive. The messes that are all around us prove that we need the help of the Lord in our lives more than ever. We cannot look to Washington D.C. and expect our dysfunctional government to solve issues and do for us what only God Himself can do.

2. Jesus came into this world for such a time as this, to save us from our sins.

Jesus has formed a church that will last until Jesus comes again. The gates of hell will not prevail against the church but boy they sure are trying. What I see happening today is the young people paying the price intellectually, spiritually, academically, socially, and emotionally for the disruptions in our society from coast to coast due to the virus specifically and all the chaos and mayhem in general. **3. Our young people need the Lord Jesus more than ever and the help that only the church can bring.** This is no time to ignore God and ignore the church. The Good News is Jesus understands everything you are thinking and feeling. Jesus is the only One who has exactly what you need to thrive instead of sinking further into the morass of our culture crippled by anxiety, depression and illness. Yes, something has gone terribly wrong. Everything Jesus has and does is terribly right, correct, good, holy, and perfect in every way. Jesus can do no wrong and it grieves Him to no end when people choose to pay no attention to God, His word, and His church.

4. God's answer, God's solution to the sin, evil, and dysfunction of our day is

Jesus Christ and the finished work He did for us on the cross. Jesus and His work on the cross accomplished everything we need to be right with God and to thrive in this world until the Lord Jesus brings us home. I ache on the inside for those who have chosen not to grow in the Lord Jesus Christ these past years because now is the time we need a strong faith in Christ more than ever. And one cannot make up for no growth quickly. It takes giving to God your undivided attention on a daily basis. Faith comes by hearing the hearing of the Word of God. The quality of your life on this earth will be determined by how much of your life you give to God, and by how much your knowledge and experience of God grows as you give to God your undivided attention. We are on this earth to know God, to enjoy God, to glorify God, and to participate in the institution formed by God, namely the church. To avoid either is asking for more challenges than any person can humanly handle.

The good news is the Lord God is loving, merciful, and kind. **5. God knows exactly what you need and is more than ready to give it to you as you give to God your utmost attention.** **Matthew 7:7 (NLT2)** God says, ⁷“Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you.” In other words, keep going after God and God will come through for you. Seek ye first the kingdom of God and all of these things will be added unto you. Your soul is hungry and for what only God can give. Jesus is the Savior. All His gifts are good. Only Jesus can satisfy your soul.

God brought you into this world to worship Him. God saves His people for all eternity and places us in His church. You came out of your Mama to worship God.

But you can't worship what you do not know. The more you know God, the deeper your understanding of who God is increases inside of you the desire to worship with God's people in the community of the church.

We learn and we grow as we take in God's word. We learn and grow as we devour God's teaching through great Christian authors, listening to those more mature than ourselves. And of course, putting God first.

God calls every Christian into the church. The Bible says, **1 Timothy 2:4 (ESV)** ⁴ God desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. The Bible also says, **2 Peter 3:9 (NIV)** ⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

Christianity is a relationship with God and with fellow Christians. Christianity at its core is relational. We are all in this together. God wants us to be together because it opens up our lives to receive more from God and to give to each other from what God has given to us. We need God and we need one another. Christian friendships are priceless.

6. And finally, God has put us on this earth to serve Him. Every Christian has gifts given by God to build up the church. This can only take place as we gather in His name consistently, weekly, even as God has given us one day a week to rest and worship. It's why you came out of your mama. Please immerse yourself in God's word. There is nothing more important in life than knowing God and worshipping God. God will give to you a perspective that helps life make sense. It is only in knowing God and listening to God that makes life worth living. Amen and amen.

2 Peter 3:9 (NIV) ⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.