

**The Word Today**  
**#829—Go**  
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God has a plan for His holy Christian church and if God has brought you into the membership of that holy Christian church by the fact that you are a believer in Jesus Christ, than God has a plan for you!

It is obvious that God wants you to be saved. He has brought you into his Kingdom; he has introduced you to His son Jesus Christ. You know that through his suffering a death upon the cross, through His death and burial and through His resurrection on Easter Sunday morning and His ascension back into heaven to be with the father that He is the true Savior of the world and that he has paid the price for the forgiveness of your sins. Now God wants you to be saved, that is obvious. But, if that is all that God had in mind was just your salvation then he could take you to heaven right now, couldn't he? So why is he leaving you and me here on this earth yet for another day, maybe several days, maybe a week or a month or possibly even years. What is the point of that? Why are we members of the holy Christian church waiting for the day that we will die and go to be with God in heaven? These days that we are still here on earth—why are we here?

It is obvious that God has a plan and he tells us what that plan is. He doesn't leave us in the dark. He doesn't leave us confused making us wonder what are we doing here. He tells us. He tells us that we are to go out in His name and tell the entire world about Jesus, His son so that they too can be saved. We are to announce the plan of salvation.

The greatest blessing that you can give to God is to tell others about Jesus. That you can show them that their sins are forgiven; show them that they have the gift of salvation. This is the most wonderful blessing that you can give God is to praise His son Jesus Christ and tell others that he came to suffer and die in their place and that through His death and burial and His resurrection from the dead on Easter Sunday morning that their sins have been forgiven.

There are many ways that you can serve God and of course he talks about these in His scripture, in His Word the Bible. He talks about feeding the poor, He talks about feeding the hungry, He talks about caring for the orphans, he talks about taking care of the widows, He talks about all kinds of things that we can do to show His mercy and grace and His love. We are to love one another and we are to treat one another in that love so that we share the gifts that God has given us.

So, there are many, many things to do, but the most important is to share the Gospel; to share the Good News so that people can find out about Jesus and know that their sins have been taken away. They have the gift of eternal life by finding in Jesus the forgiveness of all of their sins. There is no other way to get into heaven but to get rid of your sins and there is no way to get rid of your sins, there is nothing you or I can do to get rid of our sins, even when we are acting our very best. Even when we have faith inside of us yet by the power of the Holy Spirit, even then we cannot get rid of our sins because the only hope is to believe that Jesus Christ is our personal savior. And so the

forgiveness of sins comes through God's own gift; the gift of forgiveness through His son Jesus Christ.

And so, this marvelous opportunity that we have if we are going to live another day or two or a month or a year or however long, is to spread that Good News and to give that witness about Jesus to the world. That is why missions are so important. To support the work of missionaries and not only the people that actually go to China or India or Africa or wherever they are going to speak about Jesus, but also to be a witness wherever we are. That is first of all to our own families, then to our relatives, then to our neighbors, then to our community and then to anyone who will listen to us whether it be at work or wherever it is among our social friends and neighbors, whether it be in our community or whether it be in our state or our country, to be able to speak about Jesus wherever we are and find anyone who will listen to us as we talk about the forgiveness that Jesus offers. This is what it means to go in the name of Jesus.

Now, we remember that right after Jesus was crucified and right after he rose from the dead he ascended into heaven and he told His disciples I want you to go out into the world and to be a witness to me. But, he said don't do this until I have sent the Holy Spirit upon you. I am going back to my father in heaven and I will send upon you the Holy Spirit who will increase in you your faith and give you the conviction of what you have seen and what you now believe and create in you a desire to proclaim that message to the world. Now don't try and do it on your own, don't think you are going to out there with a

great deal of determination and a great deal of your own concentration or whatever you want to call that because you are going to fail because you are up against Satan and he is going to try to destroy you and take your faith away. So wait until you have received the gift of the Holy Spirit and we know that as we now study the church year that that came 50 days later on what we now call the festival of Pentecost—Pentecost means 50 days.

And so God sent the Holy Spirit upon His disciples and this shivering, quaking group of afraid people who were afraid that they had better stay behind closed doors because they might be next and some of the people that killed Jesus might be after them and this motley little group of people that needed to be strengthened now received the gift of the Holy Spirit and they became firm in their convictions. They became firm in their faith and they began to grow and the Holy Spirit grew within them and they became bold and they spoke boldly. They did not even question their own death—they said that even if we have to face death we are ready to confess about Jesus. We are ready to talk about the fact that Jesus is the Savior of the world and so this is how they went out into the world boldly and with conviction and with the power of the Holy Spirit. So God is at work in them, moving them to talk to anyone and everyone who will listen.

This is the message that the Christian church has today. That is why we are proclaiming this message in 43 different languages around the world right now as you are listening to this program; we are proclaiming this same message in 42 other languages including this one. These languages are being proclaimed

that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world and that is our mission. That is the point of The Word Today. That is why we have broadcasting for 31 years and why will continue to broadcast until the Lord returns so that more and more will come to know Him as their personal Savior.

We get letters from all over the world and we praise God for those messages that are returned to us—that we know people are listening, they are listening by radio.

One of the most marvelous gifts that God has given is the gift of radio. It has so many parts to it, you know, one of the greatest is that we can proclaim the Gospel! We can tell people about Jesus and we even proclaim that news in countries where it is forbidden to talk about that because we can broadcast from off shore. That is called short wave radio—we can broadcast through the air even in those countries and in the parts of the world that don't even let you talk about Jesus, we can still be on the radio there and people can tune us in and hear about Jesus. What a marvelous, marvelous miracle radio is, especially for the salvation of people and that news of taking the message of salvation to the world is why every believer who is still living is still living. As long as you have one day left to proclaim that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world, do that and speak to it!

One of the greatest opportunities is to tell our children and to witness to our children about what Jesus has done in our lives. I can picture grandparents and parents taking their children on their knee as they are teaching them their prayers, how to pray to Jesus and how to talk to Jesus and tell them that Jesus

has always been with us. He has always helped us; he has always delivered us when we are in trouble or in need. He has shown us love, he has kept us in our faith and he sends us the gift of the Holy Spirit as we hear the word of God proclaimed. That is why church is so important, that is why Holy Communion is so important, that's why talking about the Bible and discussing the Bible is so important because we know God is with us and he is keeping us in our faith. One of the most marvelous evidences of that is the way God takes care of His church, how he protects His church against the Evil One.

Please become a faithful part of Bible study, a faithful part of worship, a faithful participant in the receiving of the Lord's Supper for the assurance of your forgiveness. These are all blessings of God and they all encourage us to GO; constantly, day by day, in our prayers and in our mission giving and in our offerings and in our personal witness about Jesus. To go into the world and to tell people about Jesus—this is the reason why The Word Today is on the air and why we are spreading more and more of the news of salvation.

Help us to grow and expand as we talk to people about Jesus. We'd like to do this in their own language and their own words so that it will be very personal and meaningful to them, so that that can find out and understand that God loves them and that He sent His Son Jesus to be their Savior and that through His suffering, death and resurrection He has earned for them the free gift of salvation. They can have forgiveness through Jesus Christ and they will have eternal life with Him in heaven. This is the gift of going and telling people about Jesus.

