

### SERMON NOTES – FINISHING THE WORK – Sept 15– Murray Cornelius

	QUESTIONS:
John 4:34 My food, said Jesus, is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish His work.	1. What is God's work?
Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.	
1. What is God's Work	
John 9: 4 – 5 As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.	
The Bible speaks repeatedly about God's work. We use the term when we say things like "I am doing the work of the Lord"	
To what is Jesus referring when he says he must Finish God's Work in John 4:34?	
The Bible renders to us the story of God's mission, God's work, through God's people, in their engagement with God's world, for the sake of the whole of God's creation.	2. How do we do God's work?
The whole story of the Bible is the story of God at work bringing redemption and reconciliation to all of His Creation.	
Mathew 28:19-20 - Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.	
2. Top-Line and Bottom- Line Blessing	
Genesis 12: 1 -3	
The Abrahamic Covenant and the Great Commission	

## LET'S GO DEERE

I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, And you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse. And all peoples on earth will be blessed through you'.

Cycle of Blessing, The Cycle of Grace

The Greek word for grace is Charis.

We use this word in two English Words.

Charismata and Eucharist.

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The cycle of Grace works like this.

God gives grace to us, We give grace to others – through the gifts of God We all give grace back to God through our thanksgiving. We are not to be "end users" Don't let the flow of grace stop at you.

The Dead sea is dead – why? Pure living water flows in from Mount Hermon and then into the Sea of Galilee, which is full of fish, and then down the River Jordan into the Dead Sea.

But from there it has no where to go. It becomes stagnant. Silty and salty.

Nothing lives in the Dead Sea. It receives but it does not share.

That is not to be how our lives should be lived. As receivers of God's grace, we are to be givers of grace and love.

We are to be a blessing, grace and love flows from us.

We are to go and make Disciples of all nations. We are expected to share the good news. To tell others about the love of God that is found in Jesus Christ.

3.Our Mission, Our Work

- a. Our committed participation with God
- b. Our obedience to God's invitation and Command
- c. In God's mission.

#### QUESTIONS:

1. How can you describe the cycle of blessing and the cycle of grace?

2. What are we called to be?

3. How do we achieve that?

# BETHEL LET'S GO DEERER

We are called to Finish His Work

Jesus said to us. As the Father sent me, so also I send you.

The World, with all its problems, all its dangers, all its hatred, all its disasters, all its wars is where God calls us to go.

Charles Dickens – A Tale of Two cities

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair."

Does that not describe our world today?

All our technological advance and yet war and foolishness and hatred are everywhere.

Matthew 24: 6 – 8 You will hear of wars and rumours of wars but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are beginning of birth pains.

John 9: 4 – 5 As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

### Putting it all together

1. God's work. Doing God's work is to do his will. His will is to reconcile humanity. Doing God's work equates to doing his will. We help humanity reconcile with God by sharing his message, the same that was shared with us. We help humanity reconcile with God by living a life centered in Jesus and our life itself will show Jesus existence and need for those who don't know him yet. We help humanity reconcile with God by giving with more heart than expecting to receive and by giving grace just as we have received it from God.

### QUESTIONS:

1. How are we participating individually and collectively as a church on the first three points on this topic. (Our committed participation with God, Our obedience to God's invitation and Command, In God's mission)?

2. Why does Jesus send us to the word to share his message?

3. Who is the light of the world?

## LET'S GO DEEPER

2. We must give. As Christians, our lives are centered in Jesus. His teachings, his example. We are his disciples. We learn from him. One of the great teachings he gives us is to give. Give love to others, even if we think they don't deserve it. Give from our finances, since we are only stewards of what God has trusts us with. Give forgiveness, as he has forgiven us. Give grace, as he has given to us. You only can give what you have, and we have love, provision, forgiveness and grace because he has given that to us. So we must give. Let us not be like the dead sea.

3. Our Mission, Our Work. Must of the time we may think that our worldview is the correct one. That what we see in our community, city and country is the only reality. Media helps shape that worldview through news and content but a times that source of truth is biased. We miss the greater picture. There are millions of people that don't know Jesus still. There are brothers and sisters in Christ that are being persecuted in other countries while we enjoy freedom of faith in Canada. Our mission is to use all the gifts and resources God has given us to spread the good news. The beautiful thing about the God we serve is that he makes time to have a personal relationship with each one of its children. You may not be able to travel to other country to spread the good seed, but you can be the spiritual and financial support. You may be called by God to go to another country or city. That is something between you and God. But one thing is sure, God is going to push us to DO something. We have work to do for the Kingdom of God. People have not yet heard about the good news. That is our mission, that is our work. Share the good news, directly and indirectly by supporting others that do.

**ACTION STEPS:** 

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