



THE EXHORTER

“And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.” Acts 2:40

The Palmer Road church of Christ, Westland, Mi. (prchurchofchrist.org)

December 25, 2011

JUMP START #300

John 19:30- “It is finished”

Our verse today were Jesus’ last words as he hung on the cross. As he hung on the cross, he was able to look back on all that he had accomplished on earth and say, “It is finished!” Jesus came to fulfill a specific purpose. He came to earth with a mission. His mission was to redeem all mankind. To give them repentance of their sins and to show them the way to salvation.

If you’re like me, when a new project or job comes my way, I get really excited. That’s all I can think about. I get a one-tracked mind and all I want to do all day, every day is this new project. For the first couple of days I do great. I give it my all. After about a week, I find myself becoming a little more relaxed. A little less focused on what I need to do. And eventually, it becomes just another part of my everyday life, that loses its meaning all together.

That happens with a lot of things. When you get a new car, you tell yourself, it will stay in that condition for as long as you have it. Your new pair of shoes will stay clean and bright. Your new cell phone won’t get a scratch. But after enough time, what happens? That car gets dirty and loses its value. The new shoes get worn out and messy and before too long, it’s time for another pair. And your cell phone gets scratches because you dropped it one too many times.

The problem is, we lose our focus. We lose sight on what’s really important. We lose sight on how much some of these things mean to us.

What means the most to you? Your job? Your car? Your hobbies? Your family? Your soul?

While hanging on the cross, the only thing that was important to Christ was finishing what he came to do. He never lost sight in what was most important to him. But finishing his task wasn’t the most important thing to Jesus. **We** were the most important thing to Jesus. His mission was to save us! He never lost sight of that.

Have you lost focus on what you need to do? Have you lost focus on what’s really important in life? So many times, what seems important now, isn’t that important in the long run. The big things in life right now, are really nothing in the grand scheme of things. We let ourselves get worked up, ruin relationships, and miss out on great opportunities because we are making mountains out of mole hills.

Take a second to reflect on your life for a moment. What are some big things in your life right now? What are some problems you are having? Have these things taken your focus away from what it ought to be on? Our focus should be on things above. On that Heavenly home. On how I can get there.

When you get to the end of your life, will you be able to look back and say, "It is finished." Will you be able to say that you stayed focused and you finished what you came here to do?

Jesus was able to say that. Jesus came to save you and me. And he accomplished his goal. The question is, will we accomplish ours? My goal is Heaven. I want to go there when this life is through. I hope I can see all of you there! Are we focused on Heaven? There is only one way to get there and that's through Jesus Christ. Just like Jesus had a mission, so do we. We will either fail or succeed. When you think about these being the only options, everything else in life doesn't really matter anymore. When this life is over, I either obtained my goal, or I didn't. I hope we can all obtain our goal of Heaven. I'm fairly confident we all want to go there. But we will never have the chance unless we stay focused on our end goal.

I hope we are all staying focused on him. Each day we should be taking one step closer to our Heavenly home. Don't get side-tracked. Don't get distracted. That's what the Devil wants us to do. But Jesus want us with him. When I am entering into Heaven, I want to be able to say, "I am finished. Take me home Father." I hope we can all stay focused on our goal.

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