

## All of Life all for Jesus – Mission & Commitments - Talk 1

Clint Le Page

Main point – At Bundy our mission is to proclaim Christ to see us and more people, live All of life all for Jesus.

I know change is hard.(**SLIDE**)

When you've been used to something for years, and then it changes, it can take us a while to get our heads around & adjust to.

I can be a creature of habit, and often be happy for things to keep on happening the same way.

And I can find change hard, even doing something new for the first time.-----

I also know, some people find change can be really difficult.

And at Bundy we've gone through changes in the last 12 months, haven't we?-----

When Neil finished up as senior minister here after 23 years, and then I took his place, that's a change.

I believe Neil and I have in common all the things that matter most.

But some things have changed haven't they?

Not least, the Bundy session, the elders meeting together, with the staff, have worked on a mission statement.(**SLIDE**)

That, and the 7 ministry commitments, were publicized in the Fri News at the end of March.

They are posted on our website in the 'About Us' tab, if you haven't seen them.

And today and the next 2 Sundays, I, and Andy, will be speaking to this.-----

My desire and prayer, is that as a church, we'll understand what we're committed to, and why, and that you'll want to own it and support it.

I hope we will get behind or keep focused on this mission, because it's what our Lord asks of us in his word, and it's for his glory.-----

Yet I pray you'll do this gladly and joyfully and wholeheartedly, because in Christ we find salvation, life to-the-full, forgiven and free; and he's worth living for.-----

### **My first point is,(SLIDE) the Mission Hasn't Changed.**

I'm thankful to God for Neil's enduring commitment to preaching Christ, and God's word, so faithfully.

Since I was a member at Bundy in the early 2000's I've grown immensely through Neil's preaching and ministry.

And as Neil and the elders served as under-shepherds of the great shepherd Jesus,[1Pet5:2-4]

Bundy's mission has been the one Jesus left the church with.

Bundy has always been committed to making disciples.(**SLIDE**)

To making disciples, which has meant a commitment to evangelism and discipleship.---

Turn to **Matthew 28** with me please, the passage famously called, the Great Commission.

Our once crucified and now risen Lord, left his followers with this mission, before he returned to heaven.

And I want you to notice the word 'all' mentioned here 4 times.(**SLIDE**)

As the risen and glorified King Jesus, who has defeated sin and death, **v18** says, he now rules over **all authority**.

He has authority over 'all things'.----- He's the Lord who should be obeyed.----

And the second 'all' is there in **v19**.

The Lord Jesus with all authority says, 'Go and make disciples of **all nations**'.-----

Now the word disciple can mean 'student', but not in the sense you might understand it.

'Cos most students don't like their teachers, or want to be like them.

But a disciple is a learner, who follows their teacher & master, and seeks to grow more like them.

In the Christian sense, a disciple is a follower of Jesus.

That's why in our mission statement, **(SLIDE)** we speak of disciples as people who 'follow Jesus'.-----

People become disciples as the good news about Jesus is shared with them, and they believe it.

In other words, people become disciples by **evangelism**.

And this hasn't changed, and this won't change, for Bundy.

We will remain committed to the evangelism of adults and children.-----

And as we've always done, when people from non-Christians backgrounds put their trust in and follow Jesus, they get baptised.

In the name of the Father Son and Holy Spirit.

Just like has happened for Ashley at 11am today.-----

So as people are evangelized,

as they hear and believe the good news about Jesus

as they turn away-from their sin, and trust in Jesus as Lord,

they are saved; and become disciples of Jesus.

Disciples listen to, believe and do what their Lord asks of them.-----

Discipleship, is the ongoing process of continuing and growing as followers of Jesus.

And that occurs through what Jesus says in **v20**. As we are taught to observe/ obey, everything/ all things, our Lord Jesus commanded.-----**(SLIDE)**

As you'll hear over the next few weeks, Bundy will remain a Bible teaching church, with the Gospel and God's word central in our gatherings.

Because we grow as followers of Jesus as we grow in the knowledge of God and his word; his saving work in Christ, and how to live lives that please God.

And people please God when they trust and obey his Son.-----

We will remain committed to pointing people to Christ & calling them to obey his word.---

If you're a follower of Jesus please think back over your life.

When we put our trust in Jesus, to save us and forgive us, we want to listen to him, obey him, don't we?

Fellow Christians, haven't we seen that in our own lives?-----

We have a desire to listen to our Lord and please him.

How has God turned you away from sin, or grown your love or Christ-likeness?-----

And that only happens by God's grace.-----

As Jesus says in Matt 28.20, 'I am with you **always**'.

Christ is al-ways with us, his people, by his Spirit, the Holy Spirit.

By his Spirit we're enabled to grow.

And enabled to do what he says and take part in his mission.

His great, world-wide, ongoing mission.-----

Bundy has always been committed to evangelism and discipleship.

And that won't change.-----

We'll just be using different language to describe that.

Because it's helpful to articulate clearly what that means & looks like.-----

Our mission, and priorities, wont change.

But the language we use to describe this has, and will.-----

Change isn't always easy, even a change of language.

Especially when we prefer what we had before.

You're welcome to come and talk with me, or an elder or staff member about these things.-----

**Point 2, Proclaim Christ.(SLIDE)**

Instead of speaking about 'making disciples' or evangelism, we'll speak of Proclaiming Christ, **(SLIDE)** and sharing the good news of Jesus.

At Bundy we will keep preaching the Gospel on Sundays, keep sharing the saving message about Christ in our groups and gatherings.-----

If you'd turn in your Bibles, to **Colossians ch1** please.-----

The theme of proclaiming Christ is there in vv23-28.

Paul's point in **v23** is that people everywhere have been hearing the Gospel of Christ, and he's one of them sharing it, with everyone he can.

In **v25** the apostle Paul said that God gave him the mission of making the word of God fully known.

More particularly, God tasked Paul with making Christ known to non-Jewish Gentiles.

In **v27** Paul calls the good news, 'Christ in you the hope of glory'.

Because when people trust in Christ Jesus, he comes to live in them by his Spirit.

And that guarantees us a future place in glory – God's glorious presence.----

But look at what Paul says he's been doing in **v28?**-----

**We proclaim Christ.**

Paul has been speaking to others about Christ, and warning and teaching everyone.----

Paul wants everyone to know about Jesus.-----

Earlier in Col 1 Paul elaborated on **who Christ is**, that he proclaimed.

Look at **vv15-20**.-----

You could have a sermon just on these verses, but in summary:

Jesus Christ the Son of God, who truly is God and reveals God - v15, v19.

He is the firstborn, the ruler, over all creation – as we heard in Matt 28.

All things were created by him - all other authorities, everything you see and can't see.

God made it all through his Son, and for his glory, v16.-----

He rules over the church.

He was the first to rise from the dead, never to die again. **(SLIDE)**

He holds the first-place in everything.

Or as the NIV puts it, he has the **supremacy**.-----

And God reconciles people to himself through Christ.

So because Jesus Christ is the ruler, the reconciler and above all, that's why Paul preaches Christ and proclaims Christ.

And that's why we proclaim Christ too.

Jesus is Lord, and Jesus deserves to have everyone know this.-----

Also, we proclaim Christ, **to see people Saved – point 3.(SLIDE)**-----

We just remembered Anzac Day yesterday, and I learned this week of Janet **Pat Gunther,(SLIDE)** who served as a nurse in the army in WW2.

She was in Singapore when it was attacked by the Japanese. Her ship was sunk and she made it to the beach; but was captured and taken by the Japanese as a Prisoner of War.

Pat endured horrible abuse and violence, and hellish conditions, for 3 and half years.

With Japan's surrender, Pat was set free.

She was rescued and returned to Australia.

I can't even imagine the feeling of being rescued; the joy and relief.-----

But amazingly, God has done exactly that for us, saved us spiritually & eternally.-----

Back in Col 1 **v13-14**, Paul thanks God the Father because **(SLIDE)**

'He has rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins'.-----

We will keep going on about Jesus at Bundy, week after week, after week, because in him we have redemption, the forgiveness of our sins.

We have freedom, from being judged for our sins, and facing an eternity in hell.

As **vv21-23** said,

Because of our anti-God thoughts and evil actions, we were alienated from God. But God reconciled us to himself, **(SLIDE)** through Christ and his death.

As Jesus died on the cross, he died in our place, and for our sinful thoughts and deeds. And now when we trust Jesus we can stand before God holy **(SLIDE)**, faultless and blameless.

This salvation comes by faith, and by not giving-up trusting in Jesus.-----

This is the Gospel Paul proclaimed.

This is the Gospel I proclaim, that your preachers here at Bundy will proclaim.

We proclaim Christ to see people saved.-----

It's the Gospel you will keep hearing at youth group, growth group.

It's the Gospel our children will keep hearing in Sunday School.

And our friends will keep hearing in Christianity Explored.-----

And even from our lips.-----

As people turn away from ruling their own lives, and rely on Jesus, they will be saved.

Praise be to God, through Christianity Explored last year, 9 people either became Christians or clarified their identity as followers of Jesus.

9 people saved, with more teenagers on top of that.-----

The Gospel of Christ is powerful to save.

It's why we proclaim Christ.-----

It's life-changing, wonderful news.-----

We may struggle with change, but think about the change that knowing God through Jesus has made in your life?

Someone asked me this week, how I can have joy when so much bad stuff is going on in the world? And death, pain and suffering is ruining people's lives?-----

And I said, that it's joy that comes from Jesus, not my circumstances.

We stand before God faultless, accepted, and loved.-----

So like in v11-12, we can be joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has rescued us.---

Being saved by Jesus, and the rescue and reconciliation with God he brings, changes my life for the better, now.-----

What about you?-----

Being saved by Jesus, brings about the best-ever change, and changes which lasts forever.

Not all change is bad, is it?-----

Therefore we proclaim Christ so people can be saved.

Then, as people are saved and begin to follow Jesus, we need to help them live their lives for him.

**Point 4,(SLIDE) to See people Live for him.**

The apostle Paul said in Col 1.28, that he has been constantly proclaiming Christ, warning and wisely teaching everyone the Word of God, 'so that we may present everyone mature in Christ'. **(SLIDE)**

'Mature' is a word for complete or full, it describes someone who is Christlike.

We never attain it fully in this life, but it's what we're to constantly aim for.-----

In Matt 28, maturity looks like obeying everything Jesus commanded.-----

Yet Paul in Col 1 **vv9-12** reveals something of what maturity looks like:

Maturity is seen in praying for others.

It includes having a knowledge of God, and of his will.

Being wise, with understanding God's Spirit gives.

So making word-directed and Spirit-guided choices.

Maturity is about living every area of our lives for Jesus.

So that v10, we fully please the Lord.

We bear fruit in doing good works.-----

Then as God strengthens us, we show great endurance and patience.

We have joy, and thankfulness.-----

Maybe one particular aspect is a growth area for you?-----

A lot of these things we'll consider more over the next 2 weeks.

But for now, notice how Paul seeks to help followers of Jesus mature in Christ?

**v29**, he labours for this, he works hard to proclaim Christ, and present everyone mature in Christ'.

But actually, he strives in Christ's strength; in the power Christ gives.

And that will be no different for us.

We can only live God's way, and serve our Lord and his mission, by his grace.---

I hope then, that you can see how our mission statement(**SLIDE**) comes from Scripture.

The principles behind it, are found in the teaching of our Lord Jesus and his apostles.

And the mission of helping people be saved by Jesus, and live his way, will remain the mission of every Gospel-focused church, until he comes again.-----

Our Saviour & Lord asked us to be committed to this.

So what a joy and privilege to play a part in fulfilling King Jesus' plans and purposes in the world.

What a joy and privilege.-----

Some churches, even Presy churches, have quite lengthy mission statements, with multiple parts.

The elders God has appointed to lead and serve you, under Christ, they have prayerfully, thoughtfully and unanimously decided that this mission is what Bundy will stay committed to.

But we wanted to have an even shorter statement, that's catchy and clear and memorable.

What's our purpose and focus? What are we on about as a church?

Helping us all live,(**SLIDE**) **All of life, All for Jesus.**

With your leaders, I pray we will all, want to help one another, live every part of life to please Jesus.

Which also means pleasing God, and living for his glory.-----

Living all of life all for Jesus is trusting, obeying and pleasing the Lord, at home, work, study.

When you're on the sporting field, in the class or lecture, driving in your car, playing games at home.

Whether you're relating to family, friends, or strangers.

Whether you have lots of opportunity, or very little capacity, to serve others.

Whether you're well, or suffering & struggling.

Whether you are relating to people at church, or a non-Christian friend this week, we want to teach, encourage and equip you to live for your Lord.

And help you help others come to live for him too.-----

I hope that makes sense?-----

We want 'All of life, All for Jesus', to be the front face of our church, so to speak.

Lord willing, we'll have a new website next year, with this front and centre.

We want it heard in our language up-front on Sundays.

And we hope you'll be happy to take on board, own and use it in your own thinking and language too.-----

At Bundy our mission is to proclaim Christ, so that we and more and more people, live All of life all for Jesus.

Like in that image, we want to see more people move from the outside, to join the people of God, whose lives are shaped, defined and transformed by the cross of Christ.

So if someone asks you, How do you describe your church, how would you describe Bundy? You can answer, with clarity and confidence.-----

But what does that mission look like in practice?

What will us proclaiming Christ, to see people saved and live for Jesus, look like in terms of our commitments and priorities?-----

Come back over the next 2 weeks as we consider our 7 ministry commitments.-----

As I **close**, I wanted to share with you, about someone who, for me, has lived All of Life all for Jesus.

When I first came to Bundy as a minister in 2018, I didn't leave my last church because I was unhappy or struggling there.

One thing that drew me, was the opportunity to serve with **Andy May**.

And it's easier to say this as he's not here today.-----

Andy and Emma, to me, are people who've lived for Jesus in all of life.

They were my first growth group leaders, when I first joined Bundy in 1998.-----

They are thoughtful and kind, loving and generous.

They are really hospitable with their lime, their home, their meals.-----

They are prayerful.-----

They've listened to and pastored many people through many trials.

They've modeled a love for their extended family, even when it's really hard.

They've served where there's needs, without grumbling.

Andy has cooked and sacrificed to help others come to know Jesus.

Even when Andy went through burnout in 2021 and took time off to rest, and Andy couldn't "do stuff", he still relied on and kept trusting the Lord.

Andy and Emma have invested in others, and modelled Christlikeness to us all.-----

Yes we don't all have their gifts, circumstances or capacity. I don't.

I'm not wanting you to compare and get down on yourself.

I am saying, that by Andy's imperfect example, love and prayers, he has helped me live for Jesus.-----

And maybe someone comes to your mind who has encouraged you in that?-----

What does it look like for you to live All of your life for Jesus?-----

How might you help someone else, live their life, all for Jesus?-----

Even when it means change, I pray we will help one another keep living, All of life, all for Jesus.

Let's pray.