

## Mission & Commitments - Talk 2

Clint Le Page

Main point – Living All of life all for Jesus means at Bundy we're committed to Proclaiming Christ, Prayer, God's word and Loving one another (Commitments 1-4)

When you make a big decision, it's important to know what you're getting into, isn't it? (SLIDE) When Kirsti and I first bought a house, it felt like a huge decision.

And seeing that debt in the bank balance, felt nearly overwhelming.-----

If you make a big life decision, like you buy or build a house, start your own business, or change career, it's a huge decision.

And it's vital to know what you're getting into, isn't it?

Vital that you know what you're committing to.

We ask, What will that mean in practice? And can I do it? Or can we do it?-----

Even moreso when we commit to follow Jesus.-----

When you make a big decision about where you're heading, we need to know what that really means.-----

And when we as a church say, 'This is our mission', we need to know what that means.

We're in the middle of this 3-part series on Bundy's Mission and Commitments.

And the preaching is bit different to usual.

If you're new to Bundy, we normally preach through books of the bible, and in a few weeks' time, we'll do Genesis 1-11.

This series is a bit more like topical preaching.---

Last week I spoke about our mission statement at Bundy (SLIDE): We seek:

To proclaim Christ, to see people saved, follow Jesus  
and live every area of life for him.

The short catchy version of our mission is, All of Life, All for Jesus.-----

We want to help you, help one another and more-and-more people, live, All aspects of their lives, all for Jesus.---

But what does that mean practically speaking as a church?-----

Our mission forms the foundation for, and flows into our 7 ministry commitments.

You can read the details on our website, in the 'About Us' tab.

But in short form, they are on the screen. (SLIDE)

What are the core ministry commitments that will drive our practice, our choices and priorities?----- These are it.-----

Today we'll be looking at the first 4, then Andy will cover the last 3 next week and help us look to the future.-----

These commitments and their wording aren't set in stone.

But for the time being, the elders have said, this is what we want to remain our priorities & commitments.

And I say 'remain', because these are already things that w're committed to at Bundy.

These are already true of us, and we're saying we want to keep it that way.-----

And we want to list them out, so we're all clear and can be on about these together.

In Acts 17 we heard about how Paul shared the Gospel & planted the church in Thessalonica. (SLIDE)

Persecution meant he had to leave after a few weeks, then he likely wrote this letter to them a few months later, when he was in Corinth.-----

I won't be moving through the text preaching on it verse by verse.

Rather I want us to notice how our ministry commitments were there in Paul's ministry, and in the Thessalonian believers and their church.

Please keep your Bible open at **1 Thess ch1. (SLIDE)**

But before we get into it, did you notice the **tone of passage**?-----

How Paul is encouraged, joyful, grateful for them.

He's not telling them what to do. Or commanding them to be committed to x, y, z.

Paul is thankful for the commitments they have displayed.

And like that, I am grateful for the commitments you have displayed.

I am so grateful for you, brothers and sisters who make up Bundy Presy Church.

For I see so many of these things in you, and I want to thank and encourage you for that today.

With that intro, thinking about our **first commitment(SLIDE)**: Proclaiming the good news of Jesus, so that people can know and love him.

We're focusing on vv5-9.-----

In **v5** the apostle Paul says, 'our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, in the Holy Spirit, and with full assurance', or deep conviction.

Acts 17 told us about how the Gospel, the good news about Jesus, first came to the Thessalonians, in modern-day Greece, in AD 50.

It was when Paul and Silas came.

Paul went into the Jewish synagogue and talked about Jesus the Messiah.(**SLIDE**)

He reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer (die) and rise.

And he proclaimed Jesus as the Messiah, in Greek, the Christ.-----

As we heard last week, from Col 1,(**SLIDE**) Paul was committed to proclaiming Christ.

In Thessalonica, Paul was there for just over 3 weeks, proclaiming Jesus to Jews each Saturday, and no doubt also evangelising other non-Jews during the week.

Because in Thess 1 **v9-10**, they turned to God from idols.

They came to serve the living and true God.(**SLIDE**)

And they came to wait for God's Son from heaven – we'll think more about this 'waiting' in Commitment number 7 next week.-----

But for now, notice that they came to believe and trust that Jesus rescues us from the coming wrath.(**SLIDE**)

He's the Saviour, who can rescue us from the anger & final judgement of God, that will come down on us for our sin.

And when you know you've been rescued, it fills you with joy and thankfulness.

That's why Paul says in **v6**, they welcomed the message with joy.-----

We've all rejected God and lived our own way, but Jesus came, died & rose again, so that all who trust in him, will be saved from judgement.

The Thessalonians believed that, and so have we?-----

But I ask you personally, have you?-----

Has Jesus rescued you from the coming wrath?-----

Yet salvation is more than being rescued from judgement, for Jesus brings us into relationship with God as Father, as Paul highlighted in v1 and v3.

Paul proclaimed Christ so people could know God, as Father.

In knowing Jesus, we know God the Father.-----

But it wasn't just Paul who proclaimed Christ was it?----

When the Thessalonians were saved by God through Christ, they started proclaiming Christ too.

**V8**, the word, the message of the Lord Jesus, rang out from them,(**SLIDE**) to people all over Greece and beyond.-----

You see, it's not just apostles, preachers or evangelists who proclaim Christ, his people do too.

And they were an example to others in that, v7.-----  
 The news about Jesus rang out-from them.  
 And it has rang out from us, to many others.-----

At Bundy we want to stay committed to proclaiming Christ, so people can be saved.  
 The evangelism of children & adults (expressed in personal and collective evangelism),  
 a commitment to global mission,  
 planting one or more churches,  
 and prayerfulness to this end, are priorities for Bundy.

This is already so.

I rejoice that I see these commitments lived out in so many of you.----

I see people working together to proclaim the Gospel – in YG, Kids Club, Play Group,  
 Carols, on Sundays, and more.

Even when many of you serve in our tech teams, or hospitality teams – welcoming,  
 creche, kitchen and cleaning, you are supporting the proclamation of the Gospel here.  
 When you give financially you do too.

But I also a commitment to make Christ known individually.

Whether it's people bringing friends to Youth Group, church, carols, or our kids holiday  
 program Get Some Fun;

or you sharing the Gospel your friends, family or work colleagues;

or you're praying, even when your circumstances stop you doing much more;  
 so many of you do this already.

I was so encouraged by Anthony from 11am, sharing about what living for Jesus in his  
 work life meant, in a recent Friday news – I commend it to you.-----

My point is, we care about this already.

And that fills me with joy and thankfulness.

I thank God that Bundy is a church where we want people hearing about Jesus and  
 being saved.

I am grateful, and want to encourage you.-----

**Commitment number 2 is,(SLIDE) Praying** in dependence on God our Father, like  
 Jesus modelled and taught us.-----

As **v1** indicates, the Thessalonians know that repentance & faith has brought them  
 relationship with God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus in the Lord's Prayer, **Matthew 6v9,(SLIDE)** taught his disciples to pray, 'Our  
 Father who is in heaven...'

Jesus modelled a committed prayer life (Matt 14.23) and taught his followers to pray,  
 and trust God in prayer.(John 14.1; John 17)-----

Jesus and Paul model thankfulness in prayer too.

Like Paul said, in 1 Thess **1.2,(SLIDE)** 'we thank God for all of you', mentioning you  
 constantly in our prayers.

Christians can always be thankful, that we are always in relationship with God;

God is always with us, always hears us.-----

Paul thanks God particularly for the Thessalonians in **v3** - Their faith, love and hope,  
 which bore fruit in work and endurance in trials.-----

And he's praying for them often.-----

We want to model and encourage, and prioritise prayer, as we live for Jesus.

Whether it's prayer multiple times every church service.

Prayer in our growth groups. Prayer in our meetings.

Prayer in our monthly church Prayer meetings, when most Growth Groups are paused.

Or you being encouraged to pray daily, regularly and often in your own life.

Our Lord wants us to prioritise and be committed to prayer.-----

And we want to prayer especially for the things God asks us to pray for.

Big bible-soaked prayers.

Including that the Gospel would be heard, believed and save many.

Let's learn from the prayers in Scripture and Paul's prayers – and pray for persevering and growing faith, hope and love, which produces work, labour and endurance.-----

But I ask, how are you going in your prayer life?

If you're married are you praying with your spouse? If you have kids are you praying with them?

Is your growth group prioritising prayer?-----

I thank God for the prayers so many of you pray for me, and for your leaders and for our church.

I'm grateful for the many who come to the Bundy prayer meeting.

And who pray in our services and various gatherings.

I'm grateful that many of you are persevering in prayerfulness through trials and suffering.

Keep praying.

I know many of you are praying daily, regularly, often, and it's a priority for you.

Whether for you it's 30 mins each day, or 5 mins when you can manage it, or meeting up with a friend to pray, I'm encouraged.

I am grateful to God that Bundy is a praying church.

May it always be so.-----

**Commitment number 3 is about the Bible (SLIDE)** – Bundy is committed to reading and applying the Bible deeply, and seeing its fulfilment in Jesus.-----

Proclaiming the Gospel, as I said last Sunday, preaching that will remain a priority for me and for us.-----

That good news of Christ crucified and risen, who rescues us from the coming wrath and reconciles us to God.-----

But it's not only the Gospel in a nutshell or a few points that we want to proclaim.

We want to proclaim the written Word of God fully. (cf. Col 1.25)

And I said last week, we will remain a Bible-teaching church.

This is exactly what Paul did in Thessalonica.

We read about in **Acts 17.2.(SLIDE)**

Paul reasoned with the Jews in the synagogue, explaining and proving from the Old Testament scriptures, that the Christ had to suffer and rise again.---

Paul was helping people know how God's word pointed to Jesus, and how it applied in Christ-centred ways.---- [like Jesus did in Luke 24:25-27,45, and which he would have done more of in v4]

Just like Paul said to Timothy(**SLIDE- 1Tim 4.13**) you leaders should continue to read, speak, teach, explain and apply the word of God.-----

But all believers have a responsibility too.-----

When Paul and Silas had to leave town, they went 70 kms away, to **Berea**.

And notice what Acts 17 **v11** said about them.(**SLIDE**)

The received the Word of God with eagerness and examined the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

The noble Bereans are comparing what the evangelist, apostle and preacher, Paul says, with the written word of God.

That's what we need to be committed to as well.-----

Reading and applying the word of God, grappling with its truth for ourselves.-----  
 On Sundays, and in Growth Groups, Youth Group, and Sunday School in appropriate ways, we want to go deep into God's word.

And I thank God that at Bundy we've been doing this for years already.-----

So many of you have joined Bundy because we are a Bible-believing, Bible-teaching church.

I was one of them. I left the church I grew up in, looking for a church that was committed to believing and teaching God's word. And I thank God that I found it here.---

I thank God for all of you who read, teach and apply God's word, in various ways.

Thank you for your faithfulness.-----

Now remember the goal of being Bible-focused, and going deep into God's word, is that we know, love and serve Jesus. [Matt 28:20; Col 1:16; Col 3.17; 24]

And when we do that, we please and glorify God. (see 2.11; 4.1-2)

Which Andy will say more about next week.

But at the heart of our living for Jesus, is Love.-----

The **final commitment we'll look at today is number 4,(SLIDE)** –Warmly Loving, welcoming and caring for one another in our gatherings and relationships.-----

Remember how in 1v9 the Thessalonians turned from idols, to serve the true and living God?-----

And their lives were changed.

Their lives were the better for it.

Their lives were better now, because of the Gospel.-----

Would you say that about your life, sisters and brothers?-----

Look at **v3**, v3, the Thessalonians had faith, hope and love.(**SLIDE**)

Oh the difference, faith, hope and love can make to a person's life.-----

They affect our attitude to life and death, work, relationships, trials, conflict, temptation.

Faith, hope and love change so much for us.-----

Focusing on their **love**.

Their labour, their hard & tiring work for God & others, was motivated by love.-----

But notice what Paul reminded them of in **v4**, we know brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you.

They have been chosen and loved by God, and no doubt that motivates them to love God and love others.

It's just what the apostle John says in **1 John 4.11.(SLIDE)**,

since God so loved us, we love others.-----

And at Bundy we love because we have been loved.-----

And I rejoice that I get to hear and see it in so many ways.

I know there is far more love shown I don't see.

But I rejoice in the ways you're all committed to loving one another, and others.

In growth group, turning up, listening, loving, sharing, even when you're tired.

In welcoming the newcomer.

Talking with or caring for that person who's not easy to love.

In serving on that team when it's a sacrifice.

Or seeking another's good when it costs.-----

I thank God for the Deacons, and many others as well, who faithfully pray and make meals, and provide practically for people.

I rejoiced to hear this week, that the great majority of volunteers going to Victorian Christian Youth Convention, are from Bundy. Nearly 30 of you.

I thank God for you all.-----

I praise God for the majority of you who love others at Bundy, and beyond.-----

I know some have not felt loved in their hardships.  
 But I thank God that so much love is shown.  
 I rejoice that we are an imperfectly, but genuinely, welcoming and loving church.-----  
 Labour motivated by love.  
 Loving others because God has first loved us.  
 I see this in you, and I thank God for this in you.-----  
 I hope you too can be thankful, and be encouraged.-----

Not that we've made it, and just rest back and take it easy now.-----

In **ch4v9-10,(SLIDE)** the apostle says,

<sup>9</sup> About brotherly love: You don't need me to write you because you yourselves are taught by God to love one another. <sup>10</sup> In fact, you are doing this toward all the brothers and sisters in the entire region of Macedonia. But we encourage you, brothers and sisters, to do this **even more**,

And in **3.12,(SLIDE)** he prays,

may the Lord cause you to increase and overflow with love for one another and for everyone, just as we do for you.

Bundy family - You love each other.----- Do it even more.

Amplify it.-----

That's not to pressure or guilt you into it.

Or make you think you have to do this to earn God's love. No.

Being saved by Jesus Christ brings people into relationship with the God who has loved us, that's why we love in response. -----

Love for God and for others is at the heart of Christ-like maturity, modelled by Jesus.[John 14:8-26; 1John 4:20-21]

It's the grace of God in the Gospel, and by his Spirit, that we love.-----

As a church we are committed to welcoming one another and others warmly, showing care and compassion, and to loving those outside the church as we're able.

What does that look like for you?-----

What do you want to do in response, do even more, or keep doing?-----

Our love will be seen in how we welcome new people.

In how we care for those who are different or suffering.

Love in the strength God gives will be seen in all our relationships:

Those you live with, come to church with, work or study with.-----

And when you are tempted to lose your temper, or sleep with someone you're not married to, you let God's word guide what love looks like.-----

You won't be like many in the Gen Z, "Yeah, nah" generation – Saying Yes then No, or always waiting for something better, never committing.-----

Yes we can't love everyone deeply, and we have different capacities.

But for those we can, we love warmly.-----

4 of the things we're committed to at Bundy,**(SLIDE)** are proclaiming Christ to see people saved, praying, applying God's word, and loving one another warmly.

These are 4 ways that we live, All of life All for Jesus.-----

I am so thankful that we are committed to these things.

But are you personally invested?-----

Let's stay committed to them together.-----

Let's pray.