



STATE OF THE

CHURCH

STATE OF THE

WORLD

Part 1:
25 Years...Same Marching Orders

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2 Timothy 4:1-5

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: ²Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. ³For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. ⁵But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

Paul boldly tells all followers of Jesus:

You will answer to God for your life and your message.

You must be ready to answer tough questions with love and patience regardless of what the answer may cost you.

You must be willing to pay the price of sharing an unpopular message in a culture that believes you are misguided.

The Myth of:

Moral Relativism

Modern Therapeutic Deism

Unreciprocated Tolerance

You must be passionate about keeping your head in every situation, paying the price for your faith, talking to people about Jesus and doing the ministry.

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Next Steps

If you're looking for a way to follow Paul's challenge of "doing the ministry," a good first step could be to **become a small group host** for about 8 weeks. This role doesn't require advanced Bible knowledge or teaching experience – it just requires a knack for hospitality, a DVD player, and the ability to host a discussion in your home.

We know this can be a big step, so **we are offering a Group Host training on Saturday morning, January 18** to help you learn how and decide whether this role is right for you. Check out the details on today's program insert and follow through by registering for the training.

Small Group Questions

- 1) If you summarize your Christmas season into one word, what would it be? (frantic, relaxed, exhausting, joyful, etc.)
- 2) How does honoring God factor into your daily decisions?
- 3) Is there a difficult or recurring faith question you've been asked that challenged you to the point of spiritual growth as you tried to find an answer? What is it?
- 4) Which of the three modern myths have you come across through a conversation, a family member, or your own personal choices? What is a biblical truth that refutes each of the myths, and how would you open a conversation with someone caught in one of the myths?
- 5) What price have you had to pay for being a follower of Jesus? If your answer is nothing, what does that tell you about your own spiritual journey?
- 6) What do you need prayer for today?

OUR MISSION | To create an authentic Christian community that effectively reaches out to unchurched people in love, acceptance and forgiveness so that they may experience the joy of salvation and a purposeful life of discipleship.