

Tabernacle, Temple, Synagogues & Churches—*Full Measure of Devotion*

World Outreach Church
Sermon Discussion Guide
Sunday Sermon: **March 16, 2025**



It's important to understand the role and significance of church and being in community with other people of faith. Today, this idea isn't fashionable, and technology is changing our imagination of church in our daily lives. But biblically, God's perspective regarding the importance of His people gathering to worship Him has not changed at all. Pastor Allen discusses this, along with how Spring in Tennessee often brings the potential for devastating storms with frantic public warnings that produce tremendous anxiety and fear. But something is happening in the world around us that is much more dramatic than a destructive storm system: We are walking amidst a "truth storm." Truth is being revealed and is breaking into the public square, and what has been hidden in darkness is bursting into the light. This is a good thing from God, but it is far more disruptive and has far greater potential for changing our future than even physical storms. We need to be more aware of the "truth storms" around us than we are of the fearsome weather threats. It's time to watch, listen, think, and act. Using our voices will be necessary. Church, we cannot shut off the lights, run to the basement to hide from the storm, expect other people to tell the truth, and then imagine you will benefit from the truth. We need to find the courage to be fully devoted followers of Jesus of Nazareth. Are you ready?

"And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor."

Concluding sentence of the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776

I. DEVOTION

de·vo·tion di-'vō-shən : the fact or state of being ardently dedicated and loyal

Philippians 3:4–11 *If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.*

⁷*But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.*

¹⁰*I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.*

***What does devotion mean to you in your personal spiritual journey?**

***What benefits have you experienced from using devotionals in your spiritual growth practices? How could someone go from simply reading devotionals to being fully devoted to God?**

II. WORLD OUTREACH CHURCH

A. Our Mission:

Helping People to Become Fully Devoted Followers of Jesus Christ

B. Our Purpose:

- ❖ **Attracting and leading the unsaved to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ**
- ❖ **Encouraging Christians to consecrate themselves to God's purposes for their lives**
- ❖ **Providing a climate in which worship and personal spiritual growth may occur**
- ❖ **Equipping Believers for effective ministry to reach the Murfreesboro area and throughout the earth**

1) Attracting and Leading the Unsaved to a Personal Relationship with Jesus Christ

Acts 4:12 *Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."*

Ephesians 2:12 *Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, **without hope and without God in the world.***

***Which part of the purpose statement above resonates with you most today? What can you do to fulfill that statement in your daily life and encourage others to do so, too?**

Encouraging Christians to Consecrate Themselves to God's Purposes for Their Lives

Romans 6:13 *Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.*

Galatians 5:13 *You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.*

*** What does spending time with Jesus look like in your current season of life? How would you encourage others to prioritize spending quality time with Christ in their daily life?**

2) Providing A Climate in Which Worship and Personal Spiritual Growth May Occur

John 4:24 *God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."*

1 Peter 2:2-3 ² *Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it **you may grow up in your salvation,***

³ *now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.*

***What are some ways you've experienced God's presence or nearness during worship?**

3) Equipping Believers for Effective Ministry to Reach the Murfreesboro Area & Throughout the Earth

Ephesians 4:12 (NASB[®]) *... for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ ...*

Ephesians 4:22-24 ²² *You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to **put off your old self,** which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to **put on the new self,** created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*

Jeremiah 23:1-2 ¹ *"Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture!" declares the LORD. ² Therefore this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says to the shepherds who tend my people: "Because you have scattered my flock and driven them away and have not bestowed care on them, I will bestow punishment on you for the evil you have done," declares the LORD.*

***Ministry happens beyond the walls of the church. How is God using your life to minister to others in your family, neighborhood, workplace, or elsewhere? What are some ways an everyday person could share the Gospel and demonstrate God's love in their community?**

PRAYER

Father, we want to follow You and our Lord Jesus—Head of the Church and more powerful than any government agency, currency, or army. We praise You for calling men and women from every nation, race, language, and tribe to Yourself. Forgive us for when we've been distracted and disinterested, for when we've grumbled and held onto past routines or places of comfort, for when we've been unwilling to obey You. Thank You for shaking and awakening us. Give us an understanding of Your invitations so we might follow You and be transformed in how we think and what we understand. We do not want to conform to this world. We want to be transformed into Your image. Holy Spirit, help us—lead us, guide us, direct us, and show us hindrances that have blocked our vision—and grant us humility to repent. Thank You for Your Church and for establishing a people for Your purposes. We want to be a part of that and be able to encourage, strengthen, and challenge one another. In Jesus' name, amen.