



# MISSIO DEI

Missio Dei is Latin for “the mission of God”. The Bible tells us the story of God and His mission to redeem and restore this world through Jesus. We need to give up our agendas and join God on His mission not tell God ours.

The whole Bible renders to us the story of God’s mission through God’s people in their engagement with God’s world for the sake of the whole of God’s creation.

## **John 16:20, NIV**

<sup>20</sup> Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. <sup>21</sup> A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. <sup>22</sup> So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. <sup>23</sup> In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. <sup>24</sup> Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

<sup>33</sup> “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”



# Sermon Notes

## The Fragrance of Heaven

**Life is DIFFICULT; it tests our DEVOTION**

*“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”*

John 16:33

*“[God] comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.” 2 Cor. 1:4*

**I can endure the JOURNEY  
because I know the DESTINATION.**

*“So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” 2 Cor. 4:18*

**It’s all Worth It**

*If we really think that home is elsewhere, and that this life is a 'wandering to find home,' why should I not look forward to the arrival? -- C. S. Lewis*

*“I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.” Romans 8:18*

**Stay focused on the DESTINATION**

- ✓ **Patience**
- ✓ **A Good Sense of Direction**
- ✓ **Catch a whiff of Heaven**

“I have noticed that the most balanced minds praise the most, while the cranks and the misfits and the malcontents, they are the ones who are the least grateful.” C.S. Lewis



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### WHAT ABOUT HEAVEN?

“Dear friends, now we are children of God and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when He appears, we shall be like Him.” (1 John 3:2)

#### MONDAY

We will recognize one another: read Matthew 17:3

#### TUESDAY

We will live in New Jerusalem: Revelation 21:2-3 tells us we will have a new home called “New Jerusalem”. Jerusalem means, “City of peace”.

#### WEDNESDAY

We will have deeper relationships: There will be no marriage in heaven (Matthew 22:30). The reason is that relationships will be much deeper than anything on earth. Remember that we'll be free from sin. Relationships will be pure and free of doubt, jealousy and gossip.

#### THURSDAY

We will still eat and touch like Jesus did in John 20:27, 21:10-15

#### FRIDAY

WE WILL NO LONGER SIN: “He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.” (Phil 1:6) In heaven Jesus will remove our sinful nature and complete making us new creations. Imagine you have a computer program that has problems. But then the

new version comes out and everything that is good about the program is left in but everything bad is fixed — and not only that, but many great new features are added. That's what we will be like in heaven.

I drove the family to Grandma's last night for Thanksgiving. Three hours into the six-hour trip, I realized that I was in a theology lab.

A day with a car full of kids will teach you a lot about God. Transporting a family from one city to another is closely akin to God transporting us from our home to his.

A journey is a journey, whether the destination be the Thanksgiving table or the heavenly one. Both demand patience, a good sense of direction, and a driver who knows that the feast at the end of the trip is worth the hassles in the midst of the trip.

For me, six hours on the road is a small price to pay for my mom's strawberry cake. I don't mind the drive because I know the reward. I have three decades of Thanksgivings under my belt, literally. As I drive, I can taste the turkey. Hear the dinner-table laughter. Smell the smoke from the fireplace.

*I can endure the journey because I know the destination.*

For some of you, the journey has been long. Very long and stormy. In no way do I wish to minimize the difficulties that you have had to face along the way. Some of you have shouldered burdens that few of us could ever carry. You have bid farewell to life-long partners. You have been robbed of life-long dreams. You have been given bodies that can't sustain your spirit. You have spouses who can't tolerate your faith. You have bills that outnumber the paychecks and challenges that outweigh the strength.

And you are tired. Let me encourage you with a parallel between your life's journey and the one our family took last night.

#### **1. It's worth it.**

As I write, the Thanksgiving meal is over. My legs are propped up on the hearth. My tablet is on my lap. I have every intention of dozing off as soon as I finish this chapter.

The turkey has been attacked. The giblet gravy has been gobbled. The table is clear. The kids are napping. And the family is content.

As we sat around the table today, no one spoke of the long trip to get here. No one mentioned the requests I didn't honor. No one grumbled about my foot being on the accelerator when their hearts were focused on the banana splits. No one complained about the late hour of arrival.

## **2. Yesterday's challenges were lost in today's joy.**

God never said that the journey would be easy, but he did say that the arrival would be worthwhile.

*Remember this:* God may not do what you want, but he will do what is right ... and best. He's the Father of forward motion. Trust him. He will get you home. And the trials of the trip will be lost in the joys of the feast.

Now, if you'll excuse me, I'll close my eyes. I'm a bit tired from the journey, and it feels good to rest.

[From In the Eye of the Storm Copyright (W Publishing Group, 1999) Max Lucado

No one can resist the aroma of a sweet smelling broth. Even God was pleased when Noah offered Him a sweet smelling sacrifice in Gen.8:20-21 - the Bible attests to it that God revoked the curse that has been placed on man from the Garden of Eden because of that offering; He revoked the curse of the thorns and thistles placed upon man after the fall. A sweet smell is powerful and strong. It attracts the favour of God to a life or situation.

Take for instance, someone walks into the office wearing a heavy perfume, people will automatically look up even if they were preoccupied with something else before then. The fragrance has announced the entrance of the person in question. So also, the fragrance of heaven will announce the presence of the carrier. Those who have neglected you; those who have sidelined you; those who have relegated you will begin to get attracted to you because of the fragrance. The fragrance also calls God attention.

Another truth to hold on to is that your name becomes precious because of the fragrance.

An old Persian fable tells of a lump of clay that had a surprising and remarkable fragrance. When asked whence came this sweet perfume, the lump of clay replied that it had been dwelling with the rose.

The Danish philosopher, Soren Kierkegaard said that sin is mostly a refusal to allow our identity to be defined by God. Instead, we seek to define our own identity and we set ourselves apart from him. Sin is not just breaking a set of God-given rules, it is also setting up our own gods in place of the one and true God. Whatever it is that we choose to define our own identity becomes our god. Personally, I've had some difficulty with allowing my job to identify who I am. I love what I do, people know me for what I do and I am tempted to allow my job to become my god. When the job disintegrates all that is left is a shell of a man.

### **Owen Strachan & Doug Sweeney:**

*"In our day, many of us busy ourselves with this world and the perfection of our existence in it. We have little fire for an otherworldly lifestyle, because we have little connection to the other world. The people in the pew have little stimulus to think about the afterlife and things of eternal consequence. We are left instead to think much about things of this world. Thus, many of us think little about heaven and a good deal about football, renovating our houses, shopping or gossip. We rarely talk about hell but often about television and movies. We joke about being "heavenly-minded" yet shy away from Christians who seem to be, viewing them as odd and out-of-place. We strive to be cool, hip, fashionable, relevant, and plugged in, unaware how little these things will matter in eternity. Our mind-set, unbeknownst to us, is almost entirely rooted in this world. We need to let the biblical testimony on the afterlife seep into our consciences and steep for a while so that we may pursue a new way of thinking and living. It is essential that we recognize the truth about the afterlife now, while we may ready ourselves for the end. The*

*Scripture is a visionary book, one that engages our minds, fires our thoughts, and rouses us to action. It is not a tame book. It will swallow us whole, transforming our understanding of this world and the next. If we do not let the biblical testimony of heaven and hell play in our minds, it will surely rest lightly on our hearts, causing us to lose sight of the monumental vision the Lord gave us of the age to come. Death and the final judgment swiftly approach us all. In these last days, our only hope is to prepare ourselves for the end by seeking the One who holds eternity in His mighty hand."*

"Every time you make a choice, you are turning the central part of you, the part of you that chooses, into something a little different from what it was before. And, taking your life as a whole, with all your innumerable choices, all your life long you are slowly turning this central thing either into a Heaven creature or into a hellish creature -- either into a creature that is in harmony with God, and with other creatures, and with itself, or else into one that is in a state of war and hatred with God, and with its fellow creatures and with itself. To be the one kind of creature is Heaven: that is, it is joy, and peace, and knowledge, and power. To be the other means madness, horror, idiocy, rage, impotence, and eternal loneliness. Each of us at each moment is progressing to the one state or the other." —C S Lewis on Christianity

There are only two kinds of people- those who say to God, 'Thy will be done' to God or those to whom God in the end says, 'Thy will be done.' All that are in Hell choose it. Without that self-choice it wouldnt be Hell. No soul that seriously and constantly desires joy will ever miss it.

In the long run, the answer to all those who object to the doctrine of hell is... a question: "What are you asking God to do?" To wipe out their past sins and, at all costs, to give them a fresh start, smoothing every difficulty and offering every miraculous help? But He has done so, on Calvary. To forgive them? They will not be forgiven. To leave them alone? Alas, I am afraid that that is what He does." —C S Lewis on Christianity

### **Three Challenges You'll Face in 2012** **Rick Warren**

New situations always require new structures. A new job often requires you to learn new skills. A new relationship often requires new ways of relating.

A new year often requires we re-think the way we're doing things. Jesus said, "New wine must be poured into new wineskins". ([Luke 5:38](#))

What are your old wineskins? Old ways of thinking? Old habits? They could be outdated ways of doing ministry, or preaching, or training that worked well in the past, but are no longer useful or helpful.

The beginning of a new year is a great time to re-examine your ministry. It is safe to assume that you will face three new "wines" in 2012: **new problems, new pressures, and new possibilities**. To handle these new challenges, you'll need the new "wineskins" of **creativity, conviction, and courage**.

### **New Problems Will Require Creativity**

Unfortunately, you're bound to have problems in 2012. The good news is they won't be the same problems you had in 2011. You will get a whole new set! These new problems will require creativity to come up with new solutions. Your old ways of thinking and relating, your old attitudes may not work anymore. That's why the Bible says, "The intelligent man is always open to new ideas. In fact, he looks for them."

Many pastors spend more time and energy trying to get around problems than they do solving them. Instead of avoiding or ignoring your problems in 2012, ask God to give you the creativity to solve them.

### **New Pressures Will Require Conviction**

Conviction is a willingness to stand up for what you believe. [Romans 12:2](#) says, "Don't let the world squeeze you in its mold, but let God remake you so your whole attitude of mind is changed." Before you get too far into 2012, I suggest you sit down and write out what values are going to be important to you in the New Year.



More than ever before, in 2012, we're going to need men and women of conviction, who say, "I'm going to do the right thing no matter what the consequences".

### **New Possibilities Will Require Courage**

Each New Year brings new possibilities – opportunities for growth. These are exciting times to be alive. God wants to do great things in your life this New Year – but it won't happen automatically. You've got to step out in faith. There's always an element of risk. [Hosea 10:12](#) says, "Plow new ground for yourselves, plant righteousness, and reap the blessing your devotion to me will produce!"

What are you planning to harvest this next year? Three hundred sixty five days from today, how will you be improved? If you want your ministry to change for the better, you've got to start cultivating some new habits, activities, and relationships now! Success doesn't just happen. It takes effort.

Learn the Word, Love the Word, LIVE the Word. The nationwide launch of Pastor Rick's 40 Days in the Word is coming January 29th. [Watch a 3-minute video testimony](#) of lives already being changed. Download a [free sample PDF](#) of 40 Days in the Word.

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**Rick Warren** is the founding pastor of [Saddleback Church](#) in Lake Forest, Calif., one of America's largest and best-known churches. In addition, Rick is author of the New York Times best seller [The Purpose Driven Life](#) and [The Purpose Driven Church](#), which was named one of the 100 Christian books that changed the 20th century. He is also founder of [Pastors.com](#), a global Internet community for ministers.

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