



## **The State of the Church and Your Church: Knowing and Reaching Your Jerusalem**

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### **Key passages**

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Col. 1:28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: 29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

Acts 20:17-38.

- I. The priorities of the leaders within the church. (vv 17-24)
  - A. Your priorities determine the way you live. (vv 17-19)
  - B. Your priorities determine what you say. (vv 20-24)
- II. The problems facing the leaders of the church. (vv 25-31)
  - A. Problem #1: Time on earth is short. (v 25)
  - B. Problem #2: Responsibilities on earth are great. (vv 26-28)
  - C. Problem #3: Opposition will arise. (vv 29-31)
- III. The power source for leaders of the church. (vv 32-38)
  - A. God's grace empowers the church to grow. (vv 32-34)
  - B. God's grace empowers the church to give. (v 35)

### **Key questions**

1. If your church closed, how long would it take your community to notice?
2. Why should the Lord direct someone to your church?
3. Are you prepared to meet the spiritual needs of those the Lord is drawing?

### **Key considerations**

- I. When they come to you

Preach:

- Preaching is what some of us do well.
- Preaching is what some of us don't do well.
  - <https://gfamissions.org/pages/for-pastors/podcastdetail/1/127/>

Prepare:

- Prepare your congregation to pray.
  - Seasons of prayer.
  - Ongoing prayer.



- Public and private school counselors to inform them that you are willing to assist families in conflict if they are seeking a faith-based solution. (See demographic report)
- Specific events:
  - Evangelistic Bible studies
  - VBS: Visiting the areas of your community where the most children live.
  - Evangelistic banquets.
  - Family/Marriage/Special conferences and meetings.
- Specific burdens:
  - What doors is God opening?
  - Where is the Holy Spirit leading?
  - Adopting a local school, homeless shelter, etc.
  - Neighborhood dessert night/cookouts.
  - Bible studies to meet a specific need.
    - Example: Quieting a Noisy Soul by Jim Berg.
  - Volunteering in the area of your interest: coaching, volunteer fire fighter, chaplain, etc.
- When do you go?
 

There is a relationship between the pastor's community involvement and the church's spiritual health.

  - When do you go (leave the office) to engage your community?
  - When do you *not* go to protect your time with your family?