



## **To This End: Open**

March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

Go into all the world and *preach* [speak] the gospel to all creation.

**Mark 16:15**

**Let me be clear: The church's *primary objective* is to *preach* the gospel, not to beautify the city, care for the poor, or renovate the ghettos. That's because the gospel *testifies to what God has done to save the world, not what we can do to patch it up*. The gospel is an announcement about Christ's finished work. Acts of kindness *apart from the gospel* only make people more comfortable on their way to hell.**

**JD Greear, *Gaining By Losing***

**"Preach the gospel; if necessary use words." Quaint and tweetable, but very wrong. *You cannot preach the gospel without words*. The gospel is an explanation about an act that occurred in history once and for all.**

**JD Greear**

God spoke, and it came to be.

**Psalm 33:9**

We understand that the universe was formed at God's command.

**Hebrews 11:3**

I am not ashamed of the gospel, *because it is the POWER of God for the salvation of everyone who believes ... For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."*

**Romans 1:16-17**

The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were *speaking* to the people. They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were *teaching* the people and *proclaiming* in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. They seized Peter and John, and because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. But many who *heard the message* believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand.

**Acts 4:1-4**

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! *If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness* shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. He is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.' *Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under*

*heaven given to men by which we must be saved.*” When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were *unschooled, ordinary* men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, *there was nothing they could say.* So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together. “What are we going to do with these men?” they asked. “Everybody living in Jerusalem knows they have done an outstanding miracle, *and we cannot deny it.* But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn these men *to speak no longer* to anyone in this name.” Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, “Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God’s sight to obey you rather than God. *For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.*”

#### **Acts 4:8-20**

While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. When the chief priests had met with the elders and *devised a plan*, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, telling them, “You are to say, ‘His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.’ If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.” So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

#### **Matthew 28:11-15**

I do not hide your *righteousness* in my heart; I *speak* of your *faithfulness* and *salvation*. I do not conceal your love and your truth.

**Psalm 40:10**