(11) Live Give Grow Go **Life Untried**

* I have a hard message for you today…I take no pleasure in delivering it….You won’t leave feeling good…
* Every week I get up here…I ask for God to speak…I ask for you to agree with me in asking

Him to do that…

* But I know it is from God Himself…and we need to hear it….more importantly we need to

respond to it…Courage and strength to hear it and obey it…

**The Church is Dying, It’s Shrinking…**

* Why are our young people growing up and leaving the Church…
* Why has America shifted from a Christian society to one that is outright hostile toward Jesus and any mention of Truth or morality?
* Why is the Church struggling in authentic mission?
* Why do so many people (young and old) no longer see the Gospel message as relevant to life?

**Why?**

* Is it that our 21st Century world is more evil than its ever been?
* Is it the Internet and its unprecedented access to materialism, pornography, and violence?
* Is it Hollywood that teases us with pleasure-seeking idols, living the envied indulgent lifestyles?
* Is it Technology that makes us gods of our own virtual realities to which we can escape?
* Is it the corruption of politics propagated by the liberal left of the radical right?
* Is it ISIS, is it Islam, is it Barak Obama, or Donald Trump??

***“The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians: who acknowledge Jesus with their lips, walk out the door, and deny Him by their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable.”***

– Breenan Manning

* **The Majority of Modern Christians Aren’t Being Honest with Themselves, With their Children, With God, or With Others**

*We live in a post-Christian society* ***“that attempts to hold on to the comfort and calming effects***

***of faith while gutting it of its costs, commitments, and restraints that the Gospel places on***

***the individual will…”*** Mark Sayers

**Rich Young Ruler – At Least He Was Honest**

**Matthew 19:16-22**

**16**And someone came to Him and said, “Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may obtain eternal life?” **17**And He said to him, “Why are you asking Me about what is good? There is *only* One who is good; but if you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.” **18***Then* he \*said to Him, “Which ones?” And Jesus said, “You shall not commit murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; **19**Honor your father and mother; and You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” **20**The young man \*said to Him, “All these things I have kept; what am I still lacking?” **21**Jesus said to him, “If you wish to be complete, go *and* sell your possessions and give to *the* poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” **22**But when the young man heard this statement, he went away grieving; for he was one who owned much property.

* **The Two Most Prominent Beliefs in Our Western World Today**

1. The highest good is individual freedom, happiness, self-definition, and self-expression…
2. Traditions, religions, old wisdom, how we do church, social institutions – anything that threatens or restricts the highest good must be reshaped, deconstructed or destroyed.

***We’ve not only bought into it – We helped to create it!* (the Bullseye)**

**John Piper Video: Don’t Waste Your Life! (Passion Conference 2000)**

*“For the many Christians sold on proving we can be both holy and cool, cultural pressures are too much.* ***We either compartmentalize our faith or drift from it altogether****—into a world that is so alluring.”* – Mark Sayers

* **Compartmentalize**

**We’ve made a way to pay verbal homage to Jesus’s as Lord and still maintain control of our lives…we’ve believed that you can indeed serve both God and Mammon…**

* + Vast Majority of Our Lives Devoted to Making Money
  + Colossal Amount of Hours We Waste on Facebook, Snapchats, Pinterest, Iphones, Video Games, Golf, Vacations, Retirement…
    - 21,000 people a day die of hunger (1 every 10 seconds)
    - 30 millions sex slaves – 600,000-800,000 trafficked every year across international borders
    - 1.1 million abortions a year; 1.5 Billion worldwide since 1980; 105 every minute
    - Violence; Depression, Hopelessness Rampant…
    - **Vast Majority Don’t Know Jesus or the Hope He is Desperate to Give the World**

**1 John 3:16-17**

**16**We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. **17**But whoever has the world’s goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, **how does the love of God abide in him?** **18**Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

**2 Timothy 3:1-5**

But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. **2**For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, **3**unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, **4**treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, **5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power**; Avoid such men as these.

* **Drifting From It Altogether…**

**That is Why We’re Dying…Shrinking…**

**STOP PLAYING CHRISTIAN…CHOOSE!**

*“The Christian ideal has not been* ***tried and found wanting****. It has been found difficult; and left* ***untried****.'*” -- G K Chesterton

**Matthew 16:24**

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. **25**For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

**"Measure thy life by loss instead of gain,**

**Not by the wine drunk, but the wine poured forth,**

**For love's strength standeth in love's sacrifice,**

**And whoso suffers most hath most to give."**

-Ugo Bassi