

SERMON SERIES: A BIBLE BELIEVING CHURCH

THE MARCHING ORDERS OF THE CHURCH

(Acts 26:12-19) – (vv. 17-18)

INTRODUCTION:

As Christians, we have received our Marching Orders from Christ. Every Christian is to be constantly on the job of winning the lost to Christ. It is the responsibility of every Christian to be a Soul-Winner.

- In Acts 26:18, the Lord says, I am sending you: “To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.”

Based on this text, we will study five Marching Orders of the Church:

- I. TO OPEN THE EYES OF UNBELIEVERS (v. 18a)
 - A. Unbelievers are blinded to spiritual truth by Satan (2 Cor 4:4)
 - B. Believers open the eyes of Unbelievers by helping them to see the truth of God and of themselves, and of the world; to give men purpose, meaning and significance in life (Heb 9:27; Titus 3:5).
 - C. Believers open the eyes of Unbelievers to the truth of God’s Word (Rom 6:23)

- II. TO TURN UNBELIEVERS FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT (v. 18b)
 - A. The Kingdom of God is a Kingdom of light and life.
 - B. The world is a kingdom of darkness
 - C. Paul’s Marching Orders, given by Jesus, was to bring Unbelievers to the Light (Rom 13:12; Eph 5:8)
 - D. In John 3:19, Jesus said, men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil.
 - E. A person is either walking in Darkness or Walking in the Light.

- III. TO TURN UNBELIEVERS FROM THE POWER OF SATAN TO GOD (v. 18c)
 - A. To turn Unbelievers from the slavery, control and bondage of evil, to the liberty, power and life that is in God Himself.
 - B. In times past, we were held by the Power of Satan. We were under Satan’s control. We were slaves to sin (John 8:34; 2 Pet 2:19).
 - C. John said in 1 John 3:8 – “He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.” - (John 8:36; Acts 16:30-31; 1 Cor 15:3-4).

- IV. TO TEACH UNBELIEVERS ABOUT THE REMISSION OF SINS (v. 18d)
 - A. Unbelievers are in need of God’s Forgiveness (Acts 10:43)
 - B. Acts 2:38 states “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” - (Rom 3:23; 8:1; Eph 1:7; Heb 8:12; Ps 66:18; 1 John 1:7; Ps 103:12; 1 John 1:9),

V. **TO TEACH UNBELIEVERS THE BLESSINGS OF AN INHERITANCE** (v. 18e)

A. **Unbelievers that come to Christ through the Gospel receive an Inheritance.**

B. **Question: What must the Unbeliever do?**

Answer: **“By Faith in me” – Trust Jesus Christ** (Col 1:12; Titus 3:7)

CONCLUSION:

A. **We have our Marching Orders from Christ – What are you going to do?**

1. If you are an Unbeliever – Trust Christ as your Savior today!
2. If you are a Believer – Tell others about Christ each and every day!
3. If you are a Believer – Disciple and Help other Believers grow in their walk with Christ.

B. **The Light of the World is Jesus**

The whole world was lost in the darkness of sin, The Light of the world is Jesus!

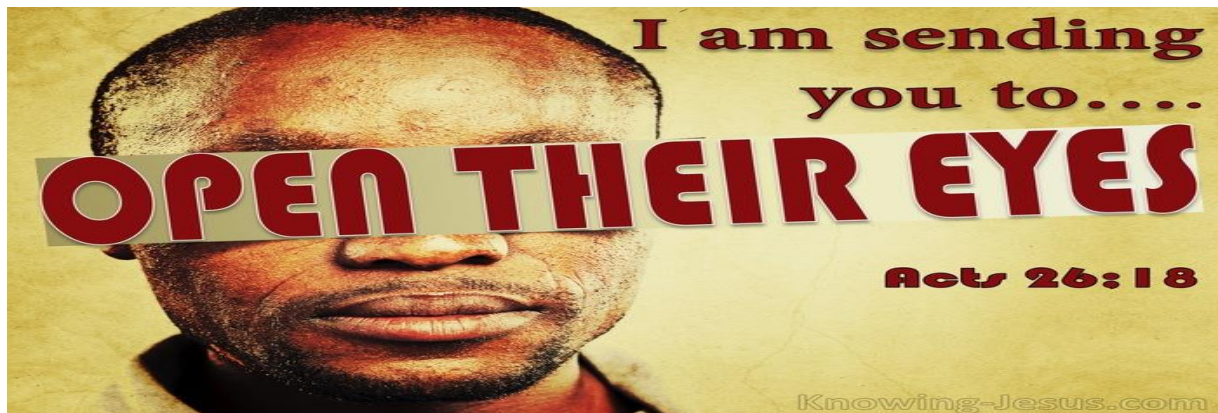
Like sunshine at noonday, His glory shone in; The Light of the world is Jesus!

Come to the light, 'tis shining for thee; Sweetly the light has dawned upon me;

Once I was blind, but now I can see: The Light of the world is Jesus!

C. **ABC's of Salvation**

- A – **Admit** that you're a sinner and that you cannot save yourself (Rom 3:23, Eph 2:8-9).
- B – **Believe** that Jesus died on the Cross and rose again for your sins (Rom 5:8, 1 Cor. 15:3-4).
- C – **Confess**/Call on Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior (Rom 10:9-13)



From the Preaching Ministry of:
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“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).