

Friday with Fred – March 17, 2017



**Vision Without a Task is a Dream. Task Without a Vision is Drudgery**  
(Inscription on a church wall in Sussex England c.1730)

I have found that if I am to be an effective minister for the Lord I need to live by both a clock and a compass. These directional finders enable me to keep my vision alive and accomplish it as I am focused on the tasks of my life through the days and years that make up my life.

The Apostle Paul helps to guide me and provides a helpful compass as he reveals to us the grand plan.

*And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ. And for this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.*  
(Col. 1:28-29)

This past weekend over 300 people came to the Grace Line Spiritual life Conference in Phoenix. Our topic was the Assurance of Salvation. This is not only an essential theological topic but also a practical necessity to understand if we are to grow in our Christian life. It is one of the key theological truths that allow a person to become "complete in Christ." Jesus articulated this in the Great Commission (Matthew 28) and reminds us that His and our magnificent obsession is to be making people "complete in Christ" as we "make disciples" by evangelization (baptizing) and edification (teaching them all things).

The Apostle Paul also provides for me a clock that is to guide me every day.

*You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.* (2 Tim. 2:1-2)

I have spent the past 40 years training men and women to serve the Lord Jesus Christ. Much of this has been through teaching seminary students, but also as a mentor, discipling what I hope is the next generation of leaders. At the Grace Line conference I had the joy of seeing many of my former students and many others who desire to walk with the Lord. It was particularly gratifying to have two of my former students share the stage and make incredibly skillful and penetrating biblical and theological presentations to the audience.

If we are to navigate and negotiate life successfully we need both a compass and a clock to point us toward true North and stay on course. What is your vision? What is your task?

*Vision without a task is but a dream. Task without a vision is drudgery.*

Serving Him with you  
Until He comes for us,  
Fred



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