

**Special Hurricane Irma Response:
Responding in Times of Crisis
Pastor Dennis Rouse
September 9-10, 2017**

Matthew 9:36 NKJ

But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

B.F. WESTCOTT said, “Great occasions do not make heroes or cowards, they simply unveil them to the eyes of men. Silently and imperceptibly, as we wake or sleep, we grow strong or grow weak; and at the last, some crisis shows what we have become.”

HOW SHOULD THE CHURCH RESPOND IN TIMES OF CRISIS?

1. REKINDLE THE FEAR OF THE LORD

Hebrews 12:25-29 NCV

So be careful and do not refuse to listen when God speaks. Others refused to listen to him when he warned them on earth, and they did not escape. So it will be worse for us if we refuse to listen to God who warns us from heaven. When he spoke before, his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Once again I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens. The words “once again” clearly show us that everything that was made—things that can be shaken—will be destroyed. Only the things that cannot be shaken will remain. So let us be thankful, because we have a kingdom that cannot be shaken. We should worship God in a way that pleases him with REPECT and FEAR, because our God is like a fire that burns things up.

Philippians 2:12 NKJ

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with FEAR AND TREMBLING...

Proverbs 19:23 NKJ

The FEAR OF THE LORD leads to life, and he who has it will abide in satisfaction; he will not be VISITED WITH EVIL.

Psalm 34:7 NKJ

The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who FEAR HIM, and DELIVERS THEM.

2. WE MUST PREACH THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM.

When it comes to the gospel there are two gospels being preached in our nation:

- **GOSPEL OF SALVATION**
- **GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM**

Matthew 24:4-14 NKJ

*And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying 'I am Christ,' and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these things are the beginning of sorrows. Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved. **AND THIS GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM WILL BE PREACHED IN ALL THE WORLD AS WITNESS TO ALL THE NATIONS, AND THEN THE END WILL COME.**"*

3. WE MUST LAY DOWN OUR LIVES FOR OTHERS

1 JOHN 3:16-18 NIV

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

Proverbs 28:27 NKJ

He who gives to the poor will not lack, but he who hides his eyes will have many curses.

Proverbs 19:17 NKJ

He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord, and He will pay back what he has given.

Acts 2:44-45 NKJ

Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.