

- a. God's promise of a new heaven and a new earth often meets us when we are confronted with the very edges of our human condition.
- b. Bearing witness to the good news of Jesus Christ is not about credibility, but a lived conviction of \_\_\_\_\_.



sermon notes

One Thing  
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[CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG/SERMONS](http://CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG/SERMONS)

### Why is the Christian life hard?

- I. Because we make a \_\_\_\_\_ in a world where public commitments are often pitted against one another.
  - a. Being a Christian entails a certain degree of \_\_\_\_\_. And visibility has its share of challenges.
  - b. Visibility in the Christian life is less about image, and more so about \_\_\_\_\_.

*And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him*

Matthew 6:5–8 (NIV)

- c. The Christian life is more than the individual because we compose a Body.

II. Because it presses against the \_\_\_\_\_.

*These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food. Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. As you enter the house, greet it. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town.*

Matthew 10:5–14 (NRSV)

- a. The Christian life is not a life of feeling settled, but one of \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. The direction of discipleship is not ours to choose.
- c. The Christian life is one where our reliance is fully on God.

III. Because it invites us to consider our \_\_\_\_\_.

*The next day Moses sat as judge for the people, while the people stood around him from morning until evening. When Moses' father-in-law saw all that he was doing for the people, he said, "What is this that you are doing for the people? Why do you sit alone, while all the people stand around you from morning until evening?" Moses said to his father-in-law, "Because the people come to me to inquire of God. When they have a dispute, they come to me and I decide between one person and another, and I make known to them the statutes and instructions of God."*

*Moses' father-in-law said to him, "What you are doing is not good. You will surely wear yourself out, both you and these people with you. For the task is too heavy for you; you cannot do it alone. Now listen to me. I will give you counsel, and God be with you! You should represent the people before God, and you should bring their cases before God; teach them the statutes and instructions and make known to them the way they are to go and the things they are to do.*

Exodus 18:13–20 (NRSV)

- a. We are \_\_\_\_\_ redeemed by the grace of God.
- b. Faith in God is not something we can understand on our own and certainly without the accountability of those around us.

IV. Because we believe and proclaim that life does not end in death, but \_\_\_\_\_.

*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,*

*"See, the home of God is among mortals.*

*He will dwell with them;*

*they will be his peoples,*

*and God himself will be with them;*

*he will wipe every tear from their eyes.*

*Death will be no more;*

*mourning and crying and pain will be no more,*

*for the first things have passed away."*

Revelation 21:1–4 (NRSV)