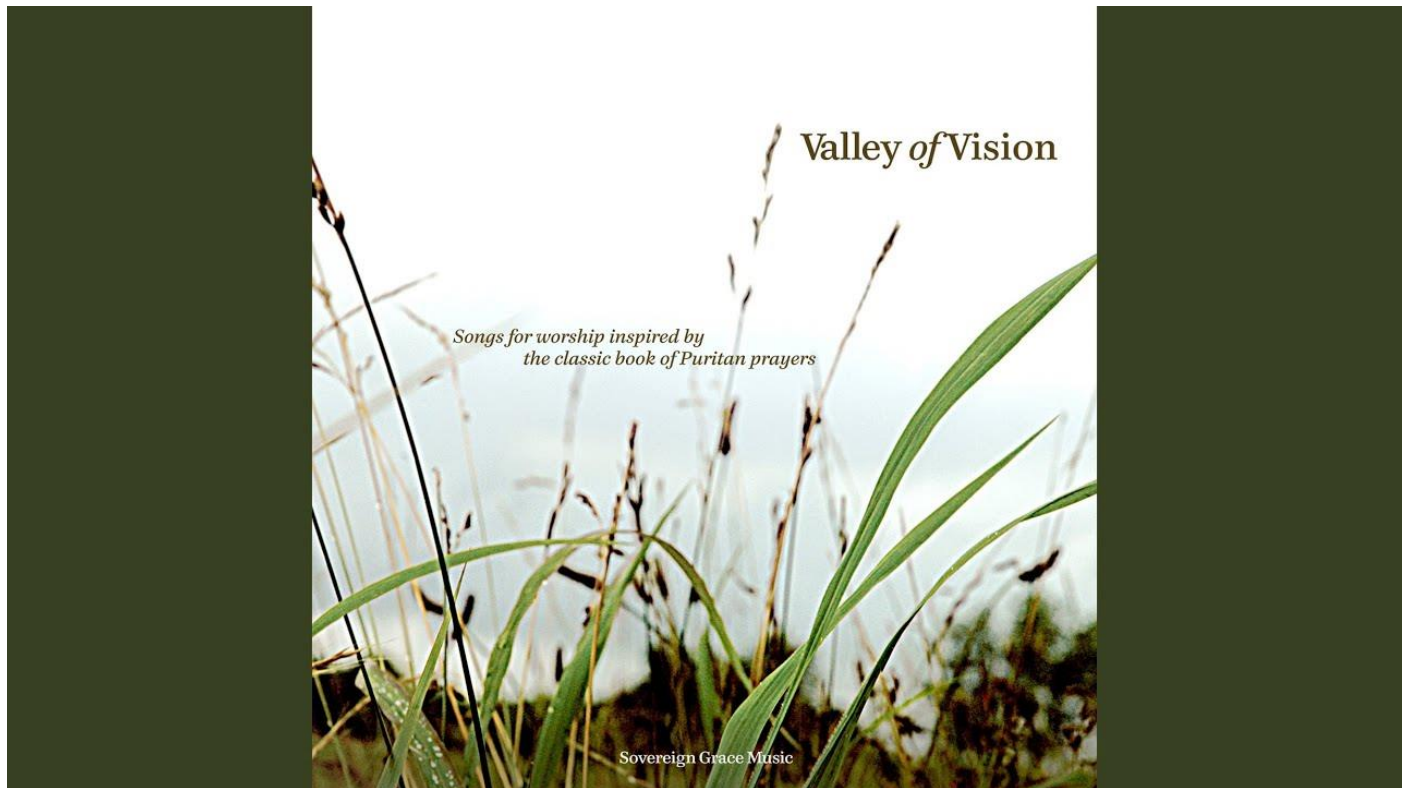


**Sunday 16th January, 2022**

**Service for Swansea & Charlestown Presbyterian Church  
Call to Worship**

*The Lord reigns. Let the earth rejoice. Let the many coasts and islands be glad!*



**Song – Heavenly Father, Beautiful Son**

Father, You loved me, sent Your Son to redeem  
Jesus, You washed me, by Your blood I am clean  
Spirit, You've opened these blinded eyes  
And brought me to Christ

**CHORUS**

Heavenly Father, beautiful Son  
Spirit of light and truth  
Thank You for bringing sinners to come to You

Father, You gave me to Jesus to keep  
And Jesus, You love me, as a shepherd, his sheep  
Spirit, You've given me faith in the Son  
And made our hearts one

**CHORUS**

Heavenly Father, beautiful Son  
Spirit of light and truth  
Thank You for bringing sinners to come to You

Father, You're waiting to hear my requests  
Jesus, Your loving open hand is outstretched  
Spirit, You're in me, You intercede And help in  
my need

**CHORUS**

Heavenly Father, beautiful Son  
Spirit of light and truth  
Thank You for bringing sinners to come to You

**Bible Reading – 1 Timothy 6:3-10 (NIV)**

These are the things you are to teach and insist on. **3** If anyone teaches otherwise and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, **4** they are conceited and understand nothing. They have an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions **5** and constant friction between people of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. 8 But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. 9 Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

## Announcements – Sunday 16th January 2022

**Focus for the month – Rest and Relax.** Why is it important to rest and relax? Because we worship a God who rested on the seventh day after finishing his work of creation and this God has made sabbath rest part of the fabric of how the world actually works. So, he set aside the seventh day of every week as a Sabbath to the Lord where we are to rest and worship. He told the farmers to give the land a Sabbath and not sow crops every seventh year. And every 50th year (after 7x7 years) there was the year of Jubilee where debts were forgiven, slaves were freed and the land had a special rest.

So rest is obviously important to God. So how can we rest well? My suggestion would be to unplug! Unplug from work, from technology, from your normal rhythms of life. Take a break. Give yourself a change. Remove yourselves from your normal stresses and strains. And plug in to something that will help you recover. Plug into prayer, reading God's word, worship, walking on the beach, watching sunsets, pursuing a hobby, reading a book, doing something that will recharge your body, mind and spirit. There are very few opportunities in a year to truly rest and relax. If January gives you one, then make sure you take it!

**School Holidays.** Our school children are still on holidays so that means the normal activities of the church will close down for the Summer School Holidays and will only start back after Australia Day 2022. There will be a basic Kids Church that will run each Sunday over that time

**Pandemic Prayers.** As a gift for every regular attender of the church, we've published a book called "Prayers from our People during the Pandemic". This is a collection of prayers that we sent around during 2020-21 as a part of our paper and interactive services. Please find the copy with your name on it and use it as an encouragement to pray.

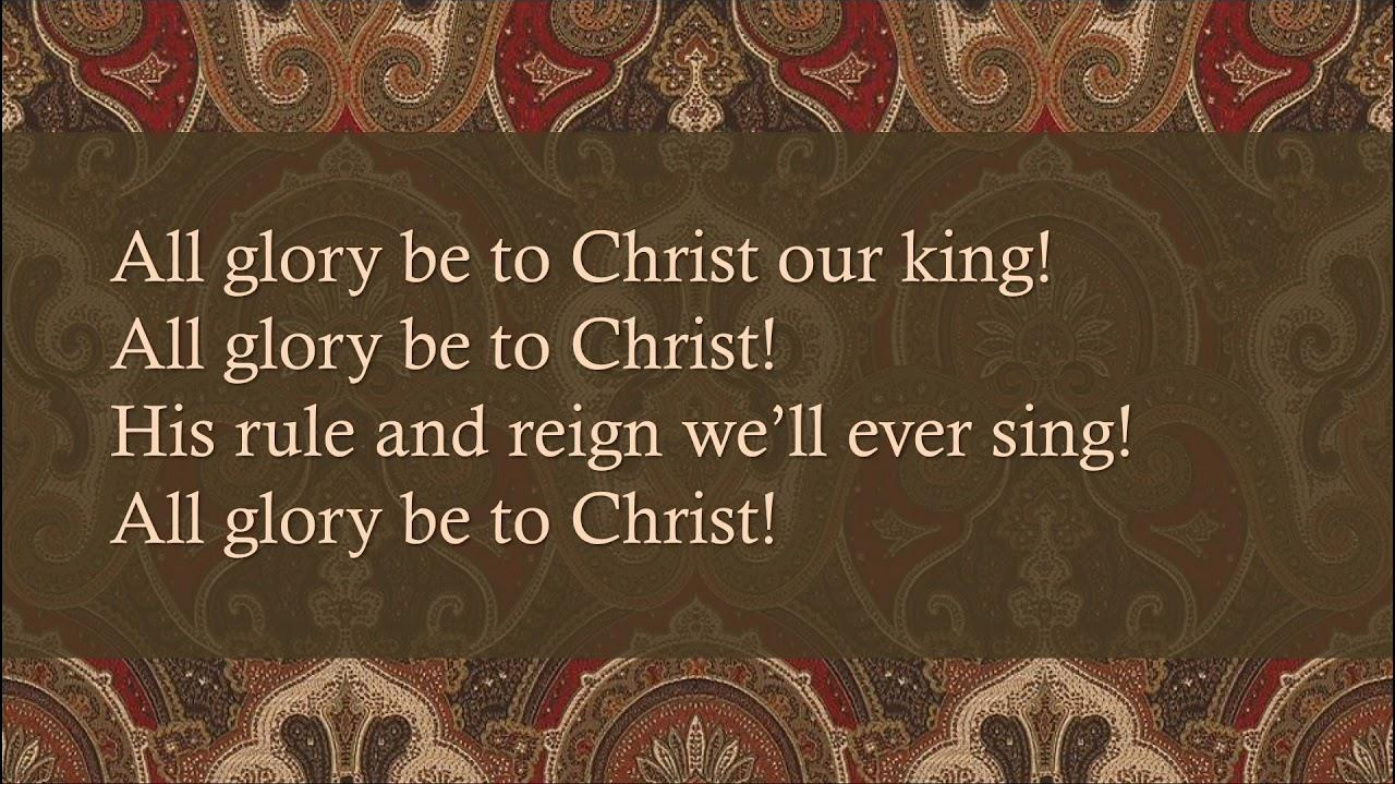
**ZOOM Prayer time.** There will be no ZOOM prayer time over the Summer School Holidays.

**Church Camp.** Please keep the weekend of 4-6th March free for next year's Church camp. The camp brochure and rego form are now available to be picked up from the door.

**Holidays.** Taylors are away on leave. If you need any pastoral assistance please speak to Jon.

**Vision Sunday – Sunday 30th January 2022.** Each year we want to remind ourselves of why we do church and why we run certain activities within the Church. To do that we attempt to paint a vision of where we are going and what we hope to achieve. And we would encourage you to get involved in at least one aspect of our Churches work. A good way to do that would be to come to one or more of our Vision Sunday get togethers & see what our plans are and how you can be a part of those plans. We are not sure as yet whether these get togethers will be live in the Church or on ZOOM but this is what the structure of our day will hopefully look like the following

12:00am	Vision for Kids work	(Suzie)
12:30pm	Vision for Mission	(Stephen)
2:30pm	Vision for men's ministry	(Stephen)
3:00pm	Vision for Small Groups	(Stephen)
3:30pm	Vision for Pastoral Care	(Jo)
4:00pm	Vision for Evangelism	(Stephen/Suzie)
4:30pm	Vision for Youth Work	(Jon)
5:00pm	Vision for Creation Care	(Stuart)



All glory be to Christ our king!  
 All glory be to Christ!  
 His rule and reign we'll ever sing!  
 All glory be to Christ!

## Song – All Glory be to Christ

### **Verse 1**

Should nothing of our efforts stand  
 No legacy survive  
 Unless the Lord does raise the house  
 In vain its builders strive

To you who boast tomorrow's gain  
 Tell me what is your life  
 A mist that vanishes at dawn  
 All glory be to Christ!

### **Chorus**

All glory be to Christ our King!  
 All glory be to Christ!  
 His rule and reign we'll ever sing  
 All glory be to Christ!

### **Verse 2**

His will be done  
 His kingdom come  
 On earth as is above  
 Who is Himself our daily bread

Praise Him the Lord of love  
 Let living water satisfy  
 The thirsty without price  
 We'll take a cup of kindness yet  
 All glory be to Christ!

### **Chorus**

All glory be to Christ our King!  
 All glory be to Christ!  
 His rule and reign we'll ever sing  
 All glory be to Christ!

### **Verse 3**

When on the day the great I Am  
 The faithful and the true  
 The Lamb who was for sinners slain

Is making all things new  
 Behold our God shall live with us  
 And be our steadfast light  
 And we shall ere his people be  
 All glory be to Christ!

### **Chorus**

All glory be to Christ our King!  
 All glory be to Christ!  
 His rule and reign we'll ever sing  
 All glory be to Christ!

## Pastoral Prayer Points

“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions...” (1 Tim 2:1-2a)

**Government leaders:** Pray for God's wisdom for our Prime Minister, Opposition Leader, and for all who are appointed to serve as government leaders. Pray that our nation will be free and prosperous.

**Pray for Israel:** Pray for the Body of Christ in Israel to be strong and unwavering amid persecution and hardship. Pray for Jewish people to call on the name of Yeshua the Messiah. Pray for peace in the region.

**Pandemic Management Bill (Vic):** The bill passed with amendments. There are still significant penalties including large fines and jail terms. Pray for peace and stability in Victoria.

**Pray for those in isolation:** Pray for protection of those in unsafe homes, and peace for all.

## Bible Reading – 1 Timothy 6:11-21 (NIV)

11 But you, Timothy, are a man of God; so run from all these evil things. Pursue righteousness and a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight for the true faith. Hold tightly to the eternal life to which God has called you, which you have declared so well before many witnesses. 13 And I charge you before God, who gives life to all, and before Christ Jesus, who gave a good testimony before Pontius Pilate, 14 that you obey this command without wavering. Then no one can find fault with you from now until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again.

15 For, at just the right time Christ will be revealed from heaven by the blessed and only almighty God, the King of all kings and Lord of all lords. 16 He alone can never die, and he lives in light so brilliant that no human can approach him. No human eye has ever seen him, nor ever will. All honor and power to him forever! Amen.

17 Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. 18 Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. 19 By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.

20 Timothy, guard what God has entrusted to you. Avoid godless, foolish discussions with those who oppose you with their so-called knowledge. 21 Some people have wandered from the faith by following such foolishness. May God's grace be with you all.



# 2 THINGS TO DO IN 2022

**Sermon by Jon Brown**

## **2 Things to Do in 2022 (1 Tim 6:11)**

What's your aim this year? What are you hoping to achieve or gain? Maybe you've given up planning anything because everything keeps getting cancelled. Maybe you're an optimist and have 22 things you can do in 2022. Well, today I want to tell you about two things you can do in 2022.

Just 2 things. Not 22. 2 things that can't get cancelled. 2 things that will change your life and the life of this church. 2 things that won't just make a difference for this year, but for all eternity. And you can do these two things no matter who you are. No matter what age you are. They are found here in 1 Timothy 6:11 "*But as for you, O man of God, **flee** these things. **Pursue** righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.*" That's the verse I want us to focus on now, and here are the two things to do in 2022:

### **I. Flee the Bad**

Paul says in 1 Timothy 6:11: "*flee these things...*" What things is he talking about? He's not talking about steering clear of Asian wet markets. Or people who are sniffing and sneezing. There's something much more harmful for humanity. There's bad things we need to flee from because these things are bad for us.

(a) The first thing that's bad for us is '**unhealthy doctrine**'. Doctrine means 'teaching'. Check out verse 3: "*If anyone teaches different doctrine and not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness...*"

This brings us full circle to how this letter began. There were false teachers who'd crept into the church at Ephesus. Paul predicted this would happen in Acts 20 when he said his parting words to the elders in Ephesus. They were teaching 'different doctrine'. And Paul tells Timothy he needs to avoid their teaching like a plague.

Throughout the letter false teaching is contrasted with true teaching; unhealthy words with healthy words. That's what the word 'sound' means in Greek, healthy and wholesome. So how can we know what's good for us, and what's not?

Notice Paul first says unhealthy doctrine is teaching that doesn't agree with "*the sound words of Jesus.*" So we can test teaching with Scripture; the teaching in the New Testament. Sound/healthy teaching comes from Jesus Christ alone. But also the words of Paul. Thus says Paul, thus says Christ.

Paul as an Apostle was Christ's mouthpiece. So when we hear or read stuff we can ask, "*Does it line up with Scripture? Does it fit? Does this emphasise what Scripture emphasises? Does it major on what Scripture majors on? Is it Christ-centred? Is it gospel-centred? Is it based on God becoming a man? Dying on a cross? Rising again? And being taken up into glory? Does the teaching have an outward focus? Is it missional? Is it concerned with reaching the world for Christ?*"

In other words you need to know your Bible. You need to know what you believe. Jesus words are good for you, so why not get into them? If you've never done that, why not taste and see that the Lord is good? The second way we can test it is: does it accord with godliness - a life devoted to God? Does this teaching lead to godliness?

Paul says in Titus: truth leads to godliness. A life centred on Jesus Christ is a life that will be lived in obedience to Him. Truth is meant to transform us. Good teaching should lead to the good life. As opposed to unhealthy teaching, which makes us sick. Check out verse 4: "Anyone who teaches different doctrine is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing." Other translations put it like this: conceited idiot, or pompous ignoramus. Eugene Peterson calls them, "*ignorant windbags who infect the air with germs of envy. Eventually there's an epidemic of back stabbing. And truth is but a distant memory.*"

That's a bit much isn't it? But false teaching just about the most dangerous thing for a church. Hence Paul's (*and Jesus'*) strong language. To disagree with Paul is to disagree with Christ. To disagree with Christ is to disagree with God.

And look, in the end, there are only two responses to God's words: one is to humble ourselves and tremble at it. The other is to harden our hearts and reject it. And the rejection of the healthy doctrine makes us sick; sick in the head and sick in the heart.

Check out verse 4, they have an unhealthy craving for controversy. And for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicion, and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is

means of gain.” In fact we’re told here, it was because they were sick that their teaching was contaminated. The unhealthy doctrine was coming from unhealthy desires.

(b) And this is the other bad thing we need to flee from: **unhealthy desires**. Verses 6-10 are about covetousness, as opposed to contentment. These false teachers were after (desiring) something other than Christ. They thought Christianity was a way to make fast cash. Godliness was a means to an end. But notice Paul says, “*godliness with contentment is great gain.*”

Godliness; a life centred on Jesus Christ, and devoted to him - that’s great gain. Not as a means to end, but as the end in itself! If you have Christ, and nothing else, you have everything. If you have everything, but you don’t have Jesus Christ, you have nothing. That’s what Paul says in verse 7, “*For we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.*”

Paul is quoting Job isn’t he? Job 1:21: “*naked I came into the world and naked I will return. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.*” So what’s the point in spending 2022 pursuing things that don’t last? It’s unrealistic. But it’s unhealthy too. Look at verses 9-10. “*Those who want to be rich fall into a temptation, and a trap. And many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil, and by craving it, some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.*”

That’s the most misquoted verse in the Bible! The Bible doesn’t say money is the root of all evil - it says, “the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.” Money is neutral. Money is harmless in and of itself. It’s coveting it that kills. It’s unhealthy desires that destroy.

Think of Achan in the OT and Ananias and Sapphira in the NT. And Judas and Demas and many others. And it’s still a danger for us today. “*If only I had...what?*” Finish the sentence. If only I had a new iPhone or iPad or iMac. It’s not that money is bad. Or the material world is bad. It’s our unhealthy desires that are deadly. It’s covetousness that kills. These are things we are to avoid like the plague. But how do we do that?

## 2. Pursue the Good (vv. 11-20)

Notice how Paul goes on in verse 11: “*But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith. Take hold of the eternal life...*”

It’s not enough just to turn from sin; bad stuff. It’s not enough to avoid this or that. There has to be something more attractive to capture our imagination. Thomas Chalmers calls it “*the expulsive power of a new affection.*” The Bible talks about overcoming evil with good. “*Depart from evil and do good*” (Psalm 34:15).

So Paul here paints a picture of what we should be pursuing above all else. It’s not ‘OK I’ll stop being greedy, and with a grim resolve we try not to be.’ That doesn’t work. Instead we

pursue an alternative set of values: *“But as for you, man of God, flee these things”* — that’s the negative and *“Pursue godliness”* - that’s the positive. *“Godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.”* These things are gifts that God gives us by His Spirit. But we are to pursue them.

How do we do that? We pursue something when it becomes attractive to us. Think about a bloke pursuing a girl. He finds something attractive in her. And that makes him go in pursuit. It’s what he thinks about. It’s what he spends his mental energy on. And that’s what we’re called to do here. Set our aim higher. Aim for the highest good. The *Summum Bonum*.

That’s Jesus Christ! God in the flesh. The more we pursue Him, the more we become like him. You are what you love. If you love your dog, you’ll end up looking like it. If you love your spouse, you’ll end up looking like them. If you love money, you become greedy. Be careful what you love!

If we love Jesus Christ, we’ll start to look like him. Pursuing Christ will get us asking: *“How can I grow in gentleness like Jesus is gentle and kind? How can I demonstrate patience like Jesus is patient? What should godliness look like for me? How can I share my faith? How can I demonstrate that I’m living for eternity and not just the here and now?”*

And it’s not going to be easy! It’s going to be a fight. Check out verse 12, *“Fight the good fight for the faith; take hold of eternal life that you were called to and have made the good confession about in the presence of many witnesses.”* In other words fight for an eternal perspective. Fight to see things through the eyes of faith. And live in light of eternity. Just as Jesus did who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross.

Jesus witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate. Christ has already gone before us. He is the faithful and true witness. And he is returning one day! Keep that in the forefront of your mind! Make Christ your aim in life. Why wouldn’t you? Look who he is: *“The blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of Lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honour and eternal dominion!”*

We need to be captured by the greatness of God. That’s the way we’ll flee from unhealthy doctrine and unhealthy desires. That’s the way we’ll stop playing with mud cakes. When God is offering us the real thing. If we pursue anything before Christ we’ll never be satisfied. It’s like drinking sea water. The more you drink the thirstier you get. Jesus Christ is the only one who can satisfy the human heart. The Puritan preacher Thomas Watson describes it like this: *“There is as much difference between spiritual joys and earthly joy as there is between a banquet that is eaten and one that is merely painted on the wall. The material things of this world can look so alluring but they cannot satisfy our souls.”*

So let me finish by asking you of the year of our Lord 2022, have you found satisfaction, and meaning, and purpose to life? Not out there in things people chase after, but in here, in your heart? You won’t get it from any other teaching but the gospel of Jesus Christ. You won’t get it from any other person than the Person of Jesus Christ. So why not try these



two things in 2022: flee the bad; flee unhealthy doctrine and instead digest Jesus' good words. Flee unhealthy desires. And instead pursue Jesus Christ above anything else this year. Because...

*"None but Christ can satisfy", says the hymn writer, "no other name for me. There's love and life and lasting joy, Lord Jesus found in thee"*



## Song – Undivided

### **Verse 1**

Give me an undivided heart  
That I might fear Your name  
Teach me to walk in righteous paths  
And follow in Your ways  
For You are gracious and forgiving  
Hear O Lord and answer me

### **Verse 2**

Give me an undivided mind  
That I might love Your word  
Help me to hunger for Your voice  
And know Your Spirit's sword  
For You are good Your truth unchanging  
Life is found in serving You

### **Chorus 1**

Undivided - I want to live for You  
Single minded - All that I say all that I do  
Sanctify me - Take me and make me new  
That I might live for Christ my Lord

### **Verse 3**

Give me an undivided love  
For all that You desire  
Make me a living sacrifice  
Ignite in me Your fire  
For You O Lord are God eternal  
All my ways are known to You

### **Chorus 2**

Undivided - Counting my gains as loss  
Single minded -  
Whatever the pain, whatever the cost  
Sanctify me - Help me take up my cross  
And live for Him who died for me

**Closing.**

*“At just the right time Christ will be revealed from heaven by the blessed and only almighty God, the King of all kings and Lord of all lords. He alone can never die, and he lives in light so brilliant that no human can approach him. No human eye has ever seen him, nor ever will. All honour and power to him forever!” Amen.*