



[Matthew 24:14](#)

(14) And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

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In his book, *Of [God](#) and Man*, theologian Aiden W. Tozer could clearly see what the priority of the church should be in this regard: "The popular notion that the first obligation of the church is to spread [the gospel](#) to the uttermost parts of the earth is false. Her first obligation is to be spiritually worthy to spread it."

First things must come first. Spiritual preparation *must* precede physical activity. God sanctified [Jesus Christ](#) to do what He did, and yet He still went through thirty years of preparation before beginning His active ministry. Not all of us have the exact sanctification, though; not everyone has been set apart to do what Paul did, or what Peter did, or what John did. They received a specific calling, a specific sanctification to do what they did. God directed these men as He saw fit, and they submitted to Him. Nevertheless, He does not direct everyone to do the same thing. There are many offices in God's House, and many functions within the Body of Christ (see [1 Corinthians 12:1-11](#), 28-30).

However, if we have been called by God, we have been given a general sanctification ([1 John 2:27](#)). We have *already* been set apart from [the world](#) ([John 17:6](#)). What is more, we are *being* sanctified ([Hebrews 2:11](#)). We are being purified and having God's character and nature created in us. This is the work that the Creator is doing. This is what Tozer called being "spiritually worthy," and what we call "go[ing] on to perfection" ([Hebrews 6:1](#)). This is the foundational, underlying, core responsibility of each of God's children, regardless of whether another, more specific sanctification is added to it.

— David C. Grabbe

To learn more, see:

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for Matthew 24:14 (<http://www.theberean.org>)

'This Gospel of the Kingdom Shall Be Preached'

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