

“BUT SANCTIFY CHRIST AS LORD IN YOUR HEARTS, ALWAYS BEING READY TO MAKE A DEFENSE TO EVERYONE WHO ASKS YOU TO GIVE AN ACCOUNT FOR THE HOPE THAT IS IN YOU, YET WITH GENTLENESS AND REVERENCE.”

1 PETER 3:15

2018 Theme for Eastside Church of Christ

Going Forward, Looking Back...

Reflecting on our 2018 Theme

“But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts...”

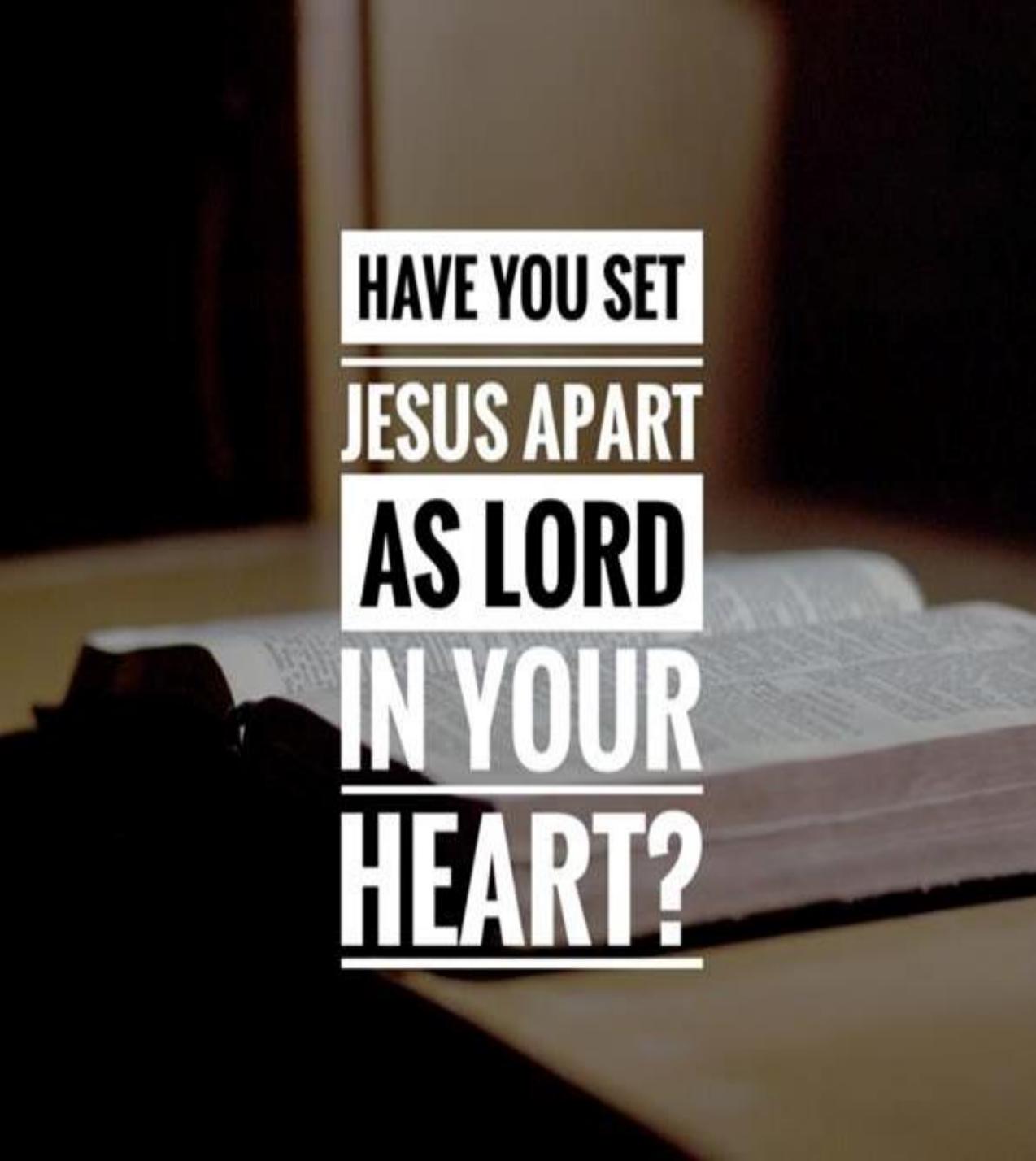
Sanctify - to treat or set apart as holy.

Jesus, the Christ, God's anointed Messiah, is holy! He is also the master and ruler with all authority in heaven and on earth.

(Matthew 28:18)

Have you set Him apart as Lord in your heart?

- *Is He “set apart” or is He really just “part of a set”?*
- *Are we looking for a Savior, but not really interested in a Lord?*



**HAVE YOU SET
JESUS APART
AS LORD
IN YOUR
HEART?**

“always being ready to make a defense...”

In 1 Peter 3:15, being "ready to give a defense" requires both preparation and courage. There comes a time when we ought to be ready to teach others (Heb. 5:12). But a lack of preparation results in a lack of courage.

This year, let's commit to becoming better bible students so we can become better bible teachers!

- *Are we making enough effort to learn the Bible better?*
- *Are we looking for opportunities to steer conversations in a spiritual direction?*

COMMIT TO BECOME A
better Bible student
TO BECOME A BETTER BIBLE TEACHER



“to everyone who asks
you...”

We must work to share the gospel with anyone and everyone. God “is not one to show partiality” (Acts 10:34). Neither can we.

Remember the motive behind the gospel: “For God so loved the world...” All the world. All creation. All nations. So must we!

- *Are we doing more “soil testing” than “seed sowing”?*
- *Do we sometimes assume the gospel will only appeal to people “like us”?*

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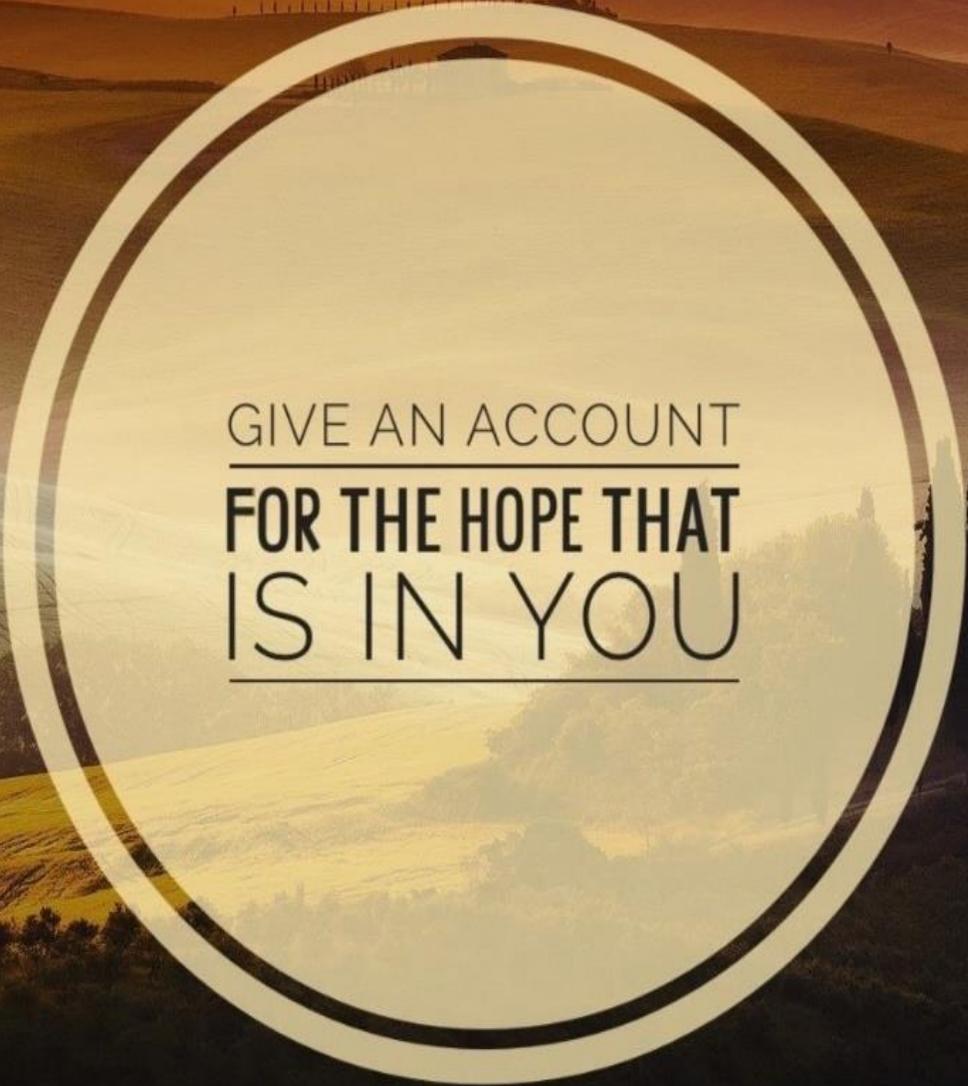
“to give an account for the hope that is in you...”

To give an account is to answer or explain in reference to judgement.

Are we ready to answer those who question our judgment when they ask about our hope? (1 Peter 1:3).

Our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness!

- *Are we prepared for naysayers and doubters?*
- *Can our faith survive ridicule or persecution?*
- *Is “the hope” in us?*



GIVE AN ACCOUNT

FOR THE HOPE THAT

IS IN YOU

"...yet with gentleness and reverence."

When you consider the extent of God's power, the verbiage of God's punishment, and His righteous anger towards sin, it is amazing that God responds to us with gentleness.

God's power is seen in His gentleness, and His gentleness is seen through His Son. Since God treats us with gentleness, we must treat others with that same gentleness.

Gentleness means we use calm words to turn away wrath, not harsh words to incite fury (Proverbs 15:1).

- *We must speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15)*
- *But, we must speak all the truth!*



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