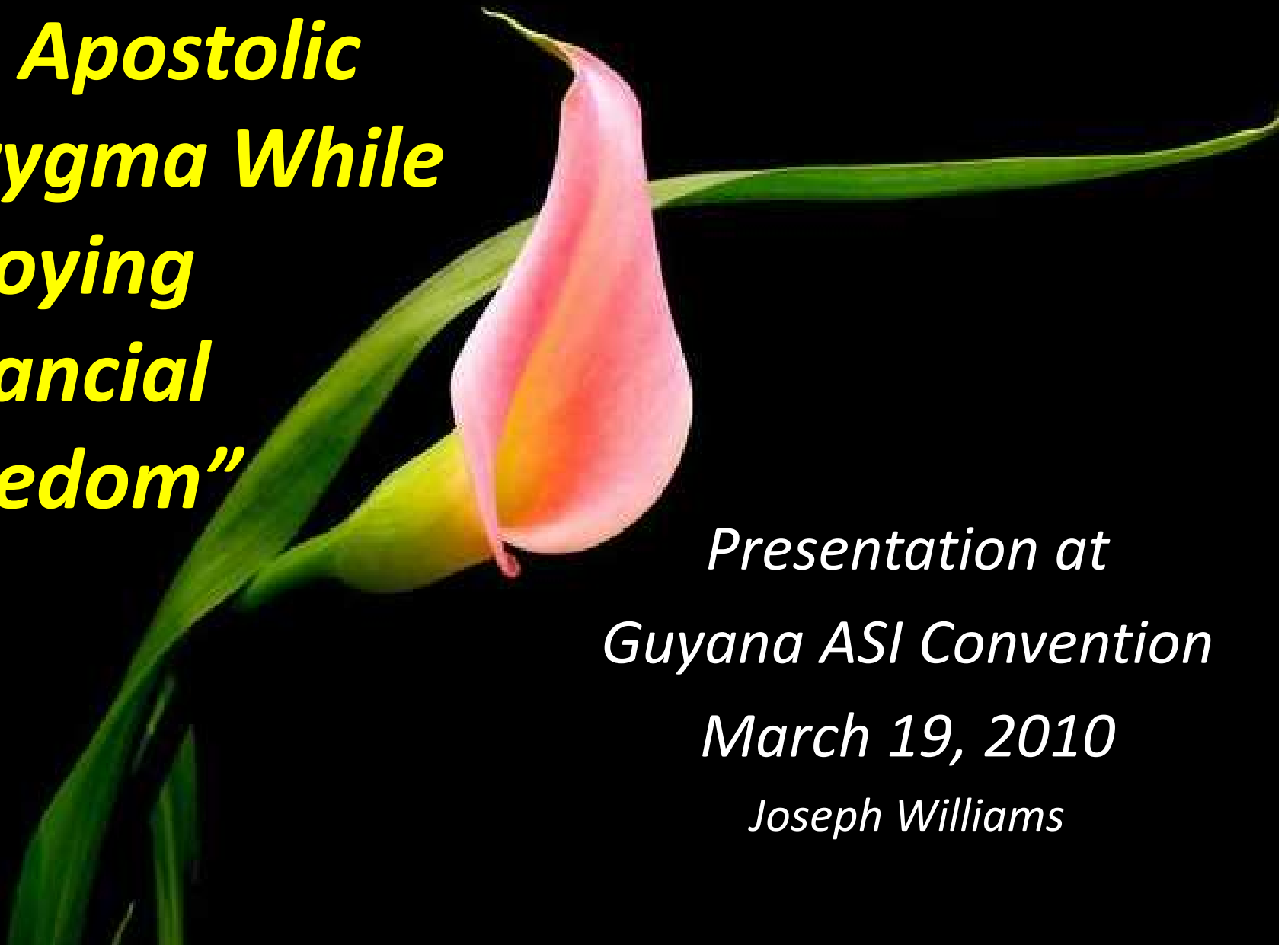


***"Engaging in
the Apostolic
Kerygma While
Enjoying
Financial
Freedom"***



*Presentation at
Guyana ASI Convention
March 19, 2010
Joseph Williams*

OBJECTIVE

To examine whether we can successfully pursue financial freedom while engaging the apostolic Kerygma?

We will look at:

- Financial Freedom
- What is involved in engaging the Apostolic Kerygma

METAPHOR OF LIFE

“Life is a dash”

- Timothy Cruise 1903 – 1884
- Jabez Leslie : 1909 - 1999
- Joseph Williams 1964 - ?

All we have to accomplish, must be done within the dash

“Life is a dash”

MERV
GRIFFIN

I WILL NOT BE RIGHT BACK
AFTER THIS MESSAGE

JULY 6, 1925 - AUGUST 12, 2007

Give Thanks

Metaphors of Life

- “Life is a dash”
- So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom Psm 90: 12
- The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away. - Psm 90:10

what is meant by κηρυγμα

The word *kerygma* only appears 9 times in all the New Testament texts.

Kerygma is a Greek noun meaning a “message” or a “proclamation.” It is public in nature; English translations of the Bible: the KJV, NAS, and NIV render *kerygma* as “preaching” 83% of the time. **In New Testament it is always used to describe the Gospel**

FINANCIAL FREEDOM

What does Financial Freedom Look Like?

There is a Biblical Basis for seeking financial freedom; In other words, its not un-Godly to pursue financial freedom

1. “Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law”. – Rom 13:8
2. “The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender” - Prov 22:7.
3. Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth. – 3 Jhn 2

Financial Freedom in Context

What does Financial Freedom Look Like?
How much money do we need to have
before attaining financial freedom?

Putting a \$ Value on Financial Freedom

Some aspects to think about

- House GY\$25M – GY\$75M
- Car \$5M-\$25M
- Debt Paid ??
- Kids Education??
- Savings for Sickness ?? **Insurance**
- Savings for Holidays ??
- Retirement/Pension??
- Investments??
- Church & Lord's Work ??
- Assisting the Needy??

Attaining Financial freedom, requires wise planning but also TRUST in Lord as there are **RISKS**; we have to balance seeking financial freedom with **call to Mission**

SOME RISKS:

- Health?? Kids?
- Investments ?? This could fail overnight, look at global financial crisis.
- We must settle the question; Is it Financial Freedom we seek or IS IT BECOMING RICH??: There is the risk of materialism one could get caught , spending his life chasing it; finding it is very elusive.
- Pressure to keep with 'The Jones' syndrome

BALANCE NEEDED:

- **Time for Lord versus Time for Work, Business, Education for financial advancement; Professional development**
- Need to put MISSION First; Contribution to the Lord's Work is our first calling
- Assisting the Needy is true Christianity

TEACH US TO NUMBER OUR DAYS

The Bible invites us to number our days; In other words how much time do we have left? “The days of our years are 70 years and if by reason of strength they be 80 years (it will be with labour and sorrow” –Psm 90:10

Numbering Our Days

If we were to take a typical day and minus the time spend on sleep (8 hrs), work/school/travelling (12), for personal necessities (2), we would realize we have very little time free; This works out to be about 2 hours per day on average; Therefore the amount of time left to end of 70 years:

- AT Age 30, you have 40 years or 31,200 hours:
Effectively 1,300 full days
- AT Age 40, you have 30 years to 70 or 23,400 hours
Effectively 975 full days

TEACH US TO NUMBER OUR DAYS

The days of our years are 70 years and if by reason of strength they be 80 years (it will be with labour and sorrow) –Psm 90:10

- AT Age 50, you have 20 years or 15,600 hours
Effectively 650 full days
- AT Age 65, you have 5 years or 3,900 hours
Effectively 163 full days

TEACH US TO NUMBER OUR DAYS

The days of our years are 70 years and if by reason of strength they be 80 years (it will be with labour and sorrow) –Psm 90:10

- The point is we have very little time to work for the Lord;
- To increase this time
 - we have to find a way to integrate MISSION with pursuit of financial freedom; We have to integrate MISSION into our daily interactions
 - We must make sacrifice; Sacrifice some things we spend time on

Financial Freedom

- Achieving Financial Freedom & Security can be elusive and is a challenge
 - Requires
 - Wise planning; SAVING! Investment
 - Trust in Lord
 - Faithfulness to the Lord
- We are first Christian who work at various vocations, careers, professional practices to live
 - Apostles were first Disciples then tradesmen and professionals

What Should we Preach

- Book of Acts contains transcription of the messages preached
 - Purpose is to leave practical examples for us to preach evangelistic messages
 - There are 18 verbatim evangelistic presentations in the book of Acts

What Should we Preach

Peter

- Pentecost sermon (2:14-41):
- In the temple (3:12-4:4)
- In his first court trial (4:8-12)
- And apostles' Council trial (5:27-32)
- And Simon the Magician (8:18-24)
- Healing of Æneas (9:33-42)
- And Cornelius (10:34-48)
-

Stephen (7:1-60)

Paul

- At Synagogue in Perga (13:17-41)
- In Lystra (14:15-17)
- And the Philippian Jailer (16:30-34)
- At the Æropagus (17:22-34)
- And Johanine disciples in Ephesus (19:1-6)
- And temple mob in Jerusalem (22:1-21)
- Trial before the Sanhedrin (23:6)
- Before Governor Felix (24:10-21)
- Testifies to King Agrippa (26:1-29)
- With Roman Jews (28:17-29)

What must we Preach

Common to recorded sermons Paul & Peter in Acts:

- Always start with context of audience – whether event just seen or cultural understanding
- Jesus is mentioned or focus – just name **Jesus Christ** was a message
- Prophets (scriptures) are brought in as evidence to gospel
- Sin and Judgment; Jesus will return !– identify deficiency in audience
- Call to respond

What must We Preach

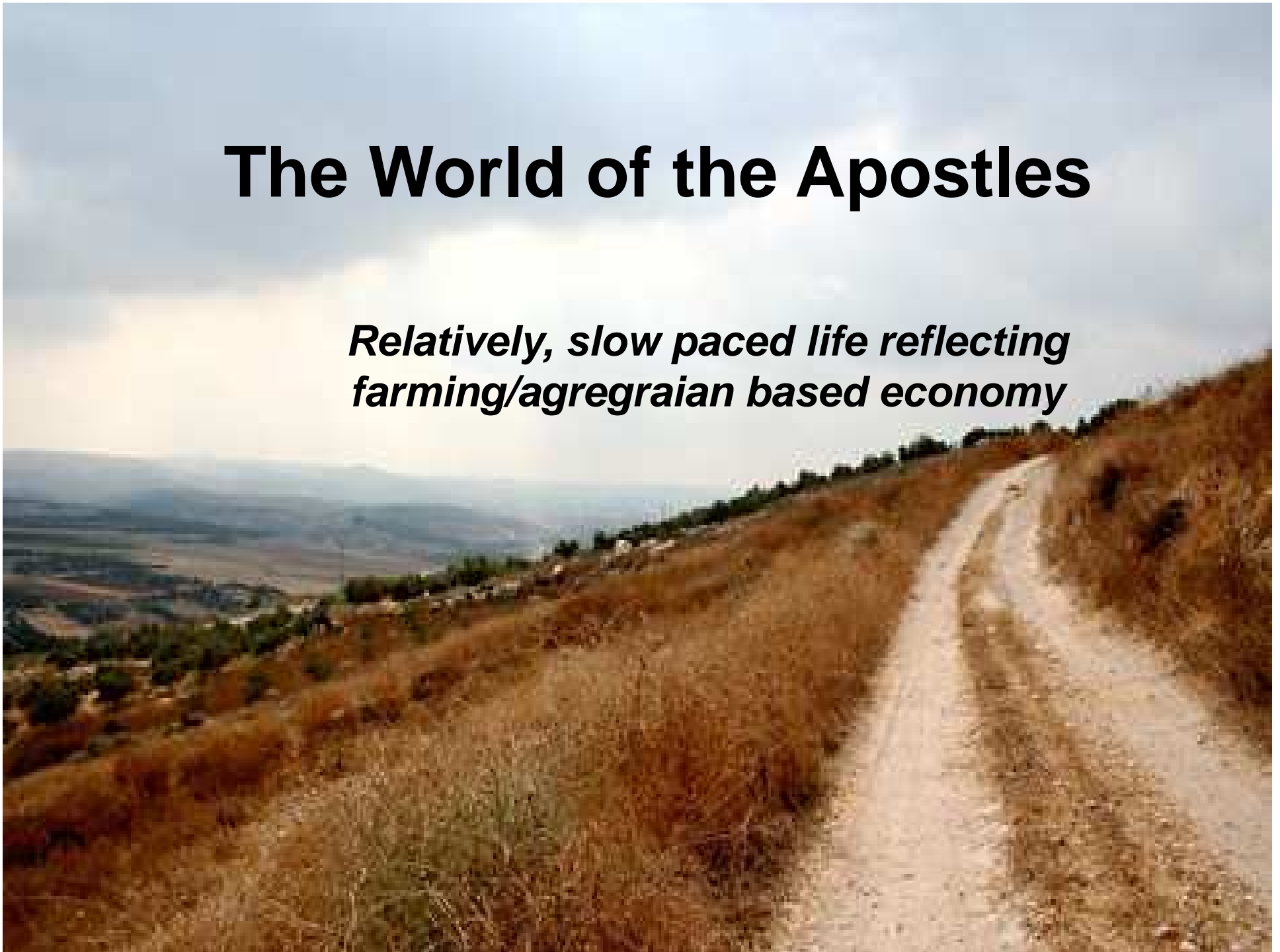
- Jesus lived, was crucified and ressurected
- Jesus will Come again

QUESTION

Given that our World today is so **much more fast paced** compared to the world of the apostles;
Is the apostolic Kerygma still a relevant approach?

The World of the Apostles

*Relatively, slow paced life reflecting
farming/agregraian based economy*



The World of the Apostles

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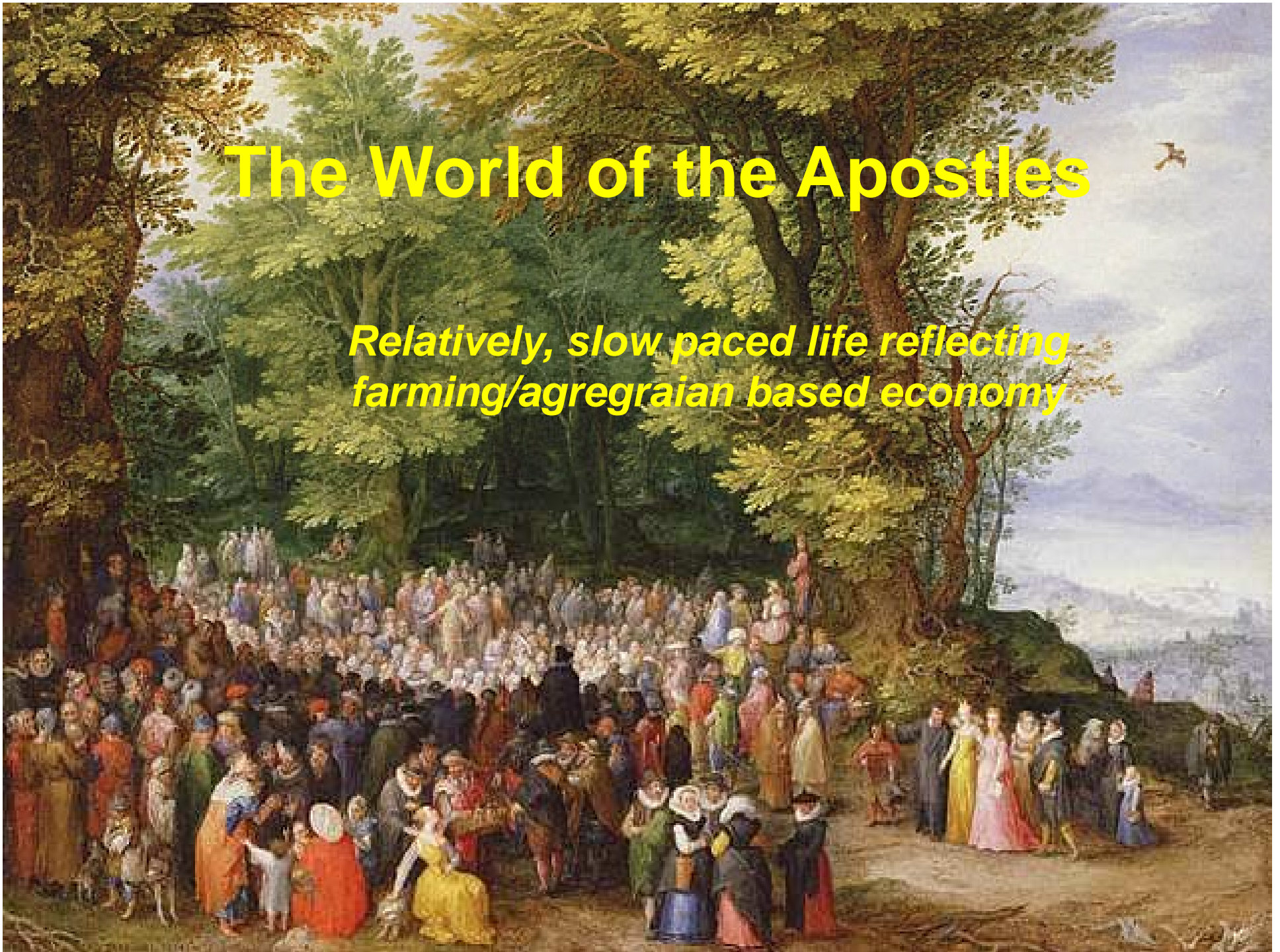
The World of the Apostles

*Relatively, slow paced life reflecting
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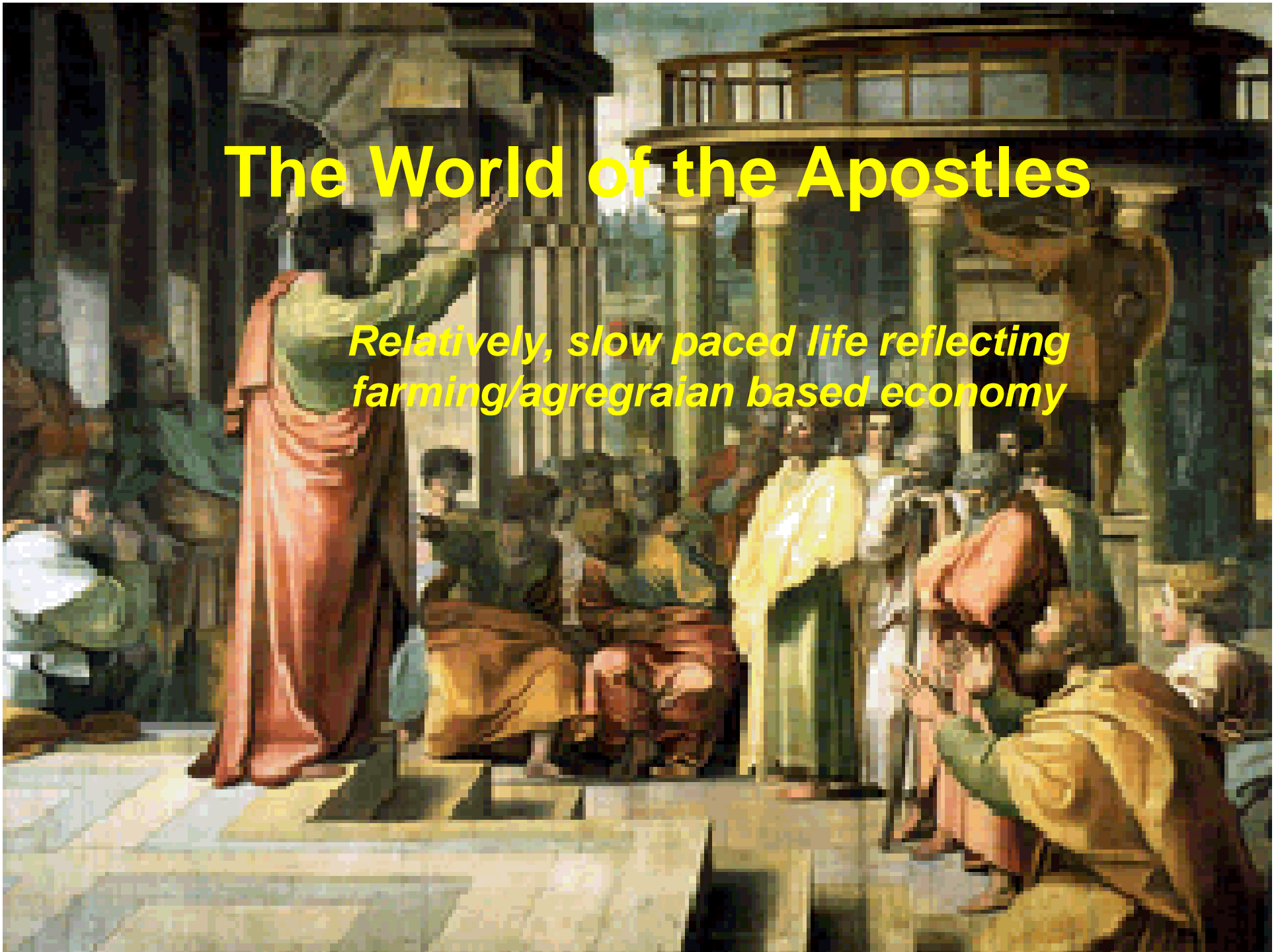
The World of the Apostles

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The World of the Apostles

*Relatively, slow paced life reflecting
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Our World Today

Much more Fast Paced



Our World Today

Much more Fast Paced





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Much more Fast Paced



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SOME CHALLENGES

In The Market Place: OUR WORLD

- **Globalization**
 - Global Economy and inter-connectedness
 - Market Forces
 - Communication – Internet; smart phones
- **Crises:** Financial; Climate Change; World Trade
 - Global Lack of Trust
- **Scourge:** Poverty and underdevelopment
- **Fears:** Health Risks; Natural Disasters; Terrorism; Violent Crimes; Nuclear holocaust

The Market Place: OUR WORLD

- Postmodern thought and lifestyle dominates
 - No absolute truth or reality
 - Morality is private
 - God, Bible, Sin are outdated concepts

The Market Place: OUR WORLD

Geo-political tensions

- US Economy in trouble – ‘Messiah’ meets roadblocks and can’t seem to find solutions
- China emerging world power
- Rumbblings from Iran & North Korea- Nuclear
- Afganistan/Iraq
- Israeli – Palistinian conflict unending
- Venezuela

Some Challenges in The Church

- Wave of worldliness in the Church
- Issues in
 - Forms of Adventism: Cultural; Theistic evolutionary; new adventism; legalistic
 - Tension between scholarship and practice
 - Immorality eg Homosexuality
- Nationalistic, Racial, Gender conflicts
- Like warm involvement in Mission & sense of lethargy
- Failure of Strategy to feed these sheep

Preaching The Gospel

- If God calls you to preach the gospel, don't stoop along the way to become a king -
Charles Spurgeon
- What is the Gospel – central theme of the Kerygma?

PREACHING THE GOSPEL

- Gospel – The Good News (to ALL MEN) that Jesus, the God-man, lived a life of perfect obedience to the law and then died as my substitute in order that I, by faith, can claim His perfect righteousness – a righteousness credited to me apart from “the works of the law” Gal 2:16
- Gospel is Jesus Christ and Him crucified
 - Birth, Life, Death, Resurrection!
 - Second Coming - Hope; Sanctification - Fruit

PREACHING THE GOSPEL

For Paul preaching of Cross and Gospel one

- For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. 1Cor 1:17
- For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. Vs 18

PREACHING THE GOSPEL

- For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation. . Rom 1:17
- But we preach Christ crucified,
 - unto the **Jews** a stumbling-block, and
 - unto the **Greeks** foolishness; 1Cor:1:23:
- But unto them which are called [JUSTIFIED BY FAITH], both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God vs 24

NB: Jew – LEGALISTS; Greeks: PHILOSOPHERS

PREACHING THE GOSPEL

- And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God.
- For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. 1 Cor 2:1,2

The Gospel Transforms

- **We are FIRST Christians** (& by extension preachers) then
 - Doctors, Lawyers, Teachers, Accountants, Businessmen, Nurses, Engineers, Tradesmen, etc
- Make souls for the kingdom the
 - Gold for the treasury

How to Engage Apostolic Kerygma

Requires :

- Same understanding of the Gospel
- Holy Spirit – for holy boldness, power,
- Same commitment, **sacrifice**, patience and trusting in God
- Living testimonies

Opportunities for New Approaches:

- Use Literature in new ways
- Use of technology – internet, audiovisual
- In context of trickery and corruption and compromise - it requires fruit of the spirit in our lives
 - Translate to superior services and quality in market place

NEEDED

- Professionals, tradesmen & businessmen need a framework for follow through and getting commitment
 - Example how the crusade works *(this is where an ASI strategy could be developed)*
- More Preachers and Pulpits
 - **Preaching must remain central**
 - Traditional not always practical ***nor most effective***
 - Need for adapting to contexts

New Paradigm

“Gaining Advantage Through Love”

- World vs Church /God’s Kingdom:
 - Self vs Love
- God’s Kingdom is demonstrated through Love
 - Love demonstrated
 - To Staff, Clients and Customers
 - Winning Attitude
 - Culture of for excellence – requires going extra mile

Achieving Financial Freedom

- Not in conflict with Apostolic Kerygma
- Requires Godly wisdom because of temptation for materialism and worldliness
- Requires integrating mission into our 'money making' – given the pace of modern day life
- There is opportunity to practice new level of Professionalism based on Love; this will attract people to Christ
- Remember always: LIFE is a DASH!

Summary - Kerygma

- Kerygma - Based on Jesus' Instruction and the Infilling of Spirit, therefore bound to succeed Mark 16:15 *"Go into all the world and preach the Gospel.. ."*
- More than ever this time requires apostolic kerygma
- Apostolic kerygma is not in conflict with financial freedom but must take priority
- However we must be aware of our individual contexts and adapt our methods
- Remembering always: LIFE is A DASH!