

# ***Annandale Evangelical Free Church Mission:*** ***Raise Up A Faithful Generation***

Given the fact that many fulfilled prophecies are pointing to the soon return of our Savior, Jesus Christ, we believe that God has called us as a church to **“raise up a faithful generation, with a heart for God’s truth, a desire for God’s purity, and a zeal for God’s way.”** Jesus said, *“Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.”* Matthew 24:33-34.

The end times will be a time of **great apostasy**, a falling away from the faith. *“Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion (or apostasy) occurs.”* II Thessalonians 2:3; *“But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.”* II Timothy 3:1; *“Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold.”* (Matthew 24:12).

Jesus asked the question, **“When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith upon the earth?”** Luke 18:8. We resolve that the answer to that question be, **“Yes, at Annandale Evangelical Free Church!”**

## **A Heart for God’s Truth**

We desire to anchor our people in the solid rock of God’s truth. **“You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”** John 8:32.

In Matthew 24, Jesus repeatedly warned of **false prophets** in the end times: *“Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming ‘I am the Christ’, and will deceive many.”* (verses 4-5; see also verses 10-11, and 23-24).

We want our people to be able to defend the truth and to be able to discern truth from error. *“In your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.”* I Peter 3:15.

## **A Desire for God’s Purity**

**“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled...Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”** Matthew 5:6,8.

Jesus promised **great rewards** for those who pursue purity – both fulfillment and contentment in this life, and joy and blessing in the life to come.

Satan entices us with *“the cravings of sinful man, the lust of the eyes and the boasting of what he has and does”* (I John 2:16), but this only leads to bondage for *“The thief comes to steal and kill and destroy”*. **True fulfillment comes from purity**, for Jesus said, *“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”* (John 10:10).

## A Zeal for God's Way

**Half-hearted commitment and lukewarm Christianity won't cut it in the end times, because of the intensity of Satan's onslaught.** *"...The devil has gone down to you. He is filled with fury because he knows that his time is short."* Revelation 12:12.

**We must be passionate in our pursuit of God,** loving him with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength (Matthew 22:37). Only then will we be able to overcome the power of the Enemy.

*"They overcame him (Satan) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death."* Revelation 12:11.

## The Importance of Connecting

We are well aware that implementing a vision statement is far more challenging than stating it. If we are to be successful in "raising up a faithful generation" at AEFC, we must be **connected** as a church family.

**We must follow the example of the early church** described in Acts 2:44-47, *"All the believers were together...Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."*

Through the ministry of hospitality, small groups, person-to-person mentorships, and couple-to-couple mentorships, together with casual times of socializing and intimate times of shared friendships, **accountable relationships** can be formed. *"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching."* Hebrews 10:25.

## Summary

We desire to be a faithful church family at AEFC, prepared to meet our Lord. *"Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know what day your Lord will come."* Matthew 24:42.

***"In keeping with his promise, we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless, and at peace with him."* II Peter 3:13-14.**