Weekly Word October 18, 2026 **Marion Victory**

Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 147:1-7
2 Timothy 4:1-13
Luke 1:1-4

In the prologue of Acts, Luke, refers to his former account of all that Jesus began to do and teach until the day He was taken up, written in the gospel of Luke. Both of these books are written to Theophilus.

It is not known exactly who Theophilus was but his name in Greek means "friend of God" or "loved by God." Biblical Scholars debate whether he was a Roman Official, a Nobleman, or perhaps even Paul's attorney. Regardless, of who he is, or was, Luke addressed him and since you and I are "friends of God" and "loved by God," we are also being addressed.

Jesus in Acts has commanded His disciples, to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." They asked Him, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom of Israel?"
And Jesus responds to their question; "***It is not for you to know the time or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority … "***
What they ***were to know*** was that they were going to ***receive power*** and that they were going to ***be witnesses*** of and for Christ. First at home, then in all of Judea and Samaria, then ***to the end of the earth.***

In Paul's second letter to Timothy in chapter 4 he says (very strongly), "I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: ***Preach the word!*** Be ready in season and out of season. ***When you're caught by surprise. When it's not popular.***
Convince, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering, and teaching for the time will come when people are not going to listen to sound doctrine but are going to fulfill their own desires. They are going to make up their own teachings to please themselves, they will turn from the truth and be turned aside believing stories and fables. Be watchful in everything, endure affliction, do the work of an evangelist, and fulfill ***your*** ministry."

We are all called ***to do*** something. I'm not called to fill another person's place. I'm called to ***complete the ministry*** (do my part), not to compete in ministry!

Paul says; “I have fought the good fight, and I finished the race. I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness which the LORD the righteous Judge will give to me on that day and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.” Paul had completed (fulfilled) his ministry.
I want to add this although it’s not in the readings this week.
Verse 18: ***The LORD will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for his heavenly Kingdom.*** This is written by someone who has been shipwrecked, flogged in public, delivered from lions, stoned, imprisoned, abandoned and forsaken … he’s been abused for the sake of the gospel and yet he says, “The Lord will deliver me from every evil work” … and finishes with, “***To Him be glory forever and ever Amen!*** “

I will finish with the reading from Luke: ***Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.***

Luke, the one who didn't walk with Jesus when He was on the earth, a Gentile from Antioch who converted to Christianity after Jesus’s death and ascension becomes one of the great gospel writers. Luke who was Paul’s close travelling companion and likely his personal physician joining him on several of his missionary journeys, affirms to us that he ***did not*** witness the events himself but recorded his account by ***carefully investigating and interviewing.***
Guided most assuredly by the Holy Spirit.

You and I are the “***ends of the earth***” people, witnesses for our time. A time that sounds quite similar to the time Paul describes in his letter to Timothy.
Be ready in season and out of season. For there is coming a season and time that the Father has put in His own authority when this same Jesus, who was taken up into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven. Acts 1:11.