## "Several Things I Learn about Trusting the Grace and Faithfulness of Our Lord Jesus Christ When I Visit with Our Brothers and Sisters in Christ in the Vellore District of Tamil Nadu, India, a Mere 8,700 Miles from Mount Olive (or 14,000 Kilometers Away, for Those Among Us Who May Be More Comfortable with the Metric System)"

A Sermon by Pastor Jeff Alexander + Sunday, November 11, 2018

Our God is not <u>American</u>. He is above all things and not bound to one particular people group. Through His Word, the Bible, the Holy Spirit is at work among people of every nation, tribe, language and culture.

Receiving unending life with God by <u>grace alone</u> through faith in Jesus alone should never be taken for granted. This is what sets the Christian faith apart from every other religious system in the world, and we should never forget it.

When we gather for worship, we join with the unnumbered hosts of heaven and with our Christian neighbors wherever God has placed them. Worshipping together should be a joyful priority of every believer in Jesus.

Even though it may seem easier to be a Christian in a culture where the majority of people acknowledge the God of the Bible, it is not necessarily the best environment for <u>true discipleship</u>. Strength can be found in people of faith standing together when it feels like the rest of the world is against them.

An attitude of generosity, <u>gentleness and respect</u> toward all people (whether they worship a different God than us or even no God at all) will help us in our goal of bringing the Gospel to people Christ died to save. The opposite attitudes will only hurt us.

Jesus is always working and is not dependent on us to do His saving work. Yet, in His great love, He enables us to join Him in His mission. While we may not always personally witness the results of our work to share the Gospel, heaven will be filled with souls who have stories to share of one person sharing with another the sweet name of Jesus, who alone <u>changes hearts</u> and lives in time and for eternity.