Stay in Your Lane
By Bob Young

"Stay in your lane!" I heard those words were frequently as a public-school educator shepherded youngsters to Bible classes at a church we ministered with in Michigan. Those words are not just for children! Here is advice for adults as we seek to mature spiritually. How often are we tempted to jump out of our lane? How often do we "false start"—running ahead of God? How often do we lose focus? How often do we fail to pursue our "one thing?" How often do we interfere with others? How often do we try to please others rather than God?

Across the years little by little I have learned to run the race in my lane. I am committed to writing about what matters – things where God has given me insights and opportunities. When I get out of my lane, I lose contact with God's power. I get distracted. I cannot help others and I am less than pleasing to God. Therefore, I am committed to writing about things where I have experience and perhaps some level of expertise. That is my lane.

That is why, as I grow older, I find myself returning to a limited number of themes. I do not want or need to write about everything. I am committed to the biblical text—God's word is understandable and life-changing. God's purpose is to save and change the world – evangelism and discipleship are essential first steps. God's mission to the world is spiritual. Along the way, we may help with other needs, but the great need of our world is the gospel of Jesus, to know Jesus. His words are life and spirit. I am content to ignore the multitude of hot-button topics, the perennial "issue of the year," and information overload about things that ultimately will make little difference.

Across the years, I fear I taught and preached about lots of things that did not matter much. Today, social media easily eats up much of our time, but ultimately the world will not hear the gospel because God's people overwhelm the Internet with teaching and preaching! We are mostly talking to ourselves and listening to ourselves. The social media algorithm sends people to sites they agree with!

I want to equip God's people to share the gospel. Understand the Bible, get to know Jesus intimately, participate fully in God's eternal mission and purpose in this world. If you feel compelled to engage in the thousands of other topics people are talking about, fine. There are millions (literally!) of sites, podcasts, blogs, videos, and feeds you can pursue.

"Stay in your lane." God calls us to be faithful to his calling, to do his will, to please him, and to find and serve those who hunger and thirst for Jesus. Running in "my lane" means I focus on where God has put me and I do what he empowers me to do. I will be faithful to who and where God has put me. I want to live life fully, until the very end, with that commitment.

I will preach Christ and him crucified. I will seek to know him and make him known. Because by grace he has made known unsearchable riches in Christ which are to be shared with the whole world! Here is a goal worth pursuing, **"Stay in your lane and run toward the goal with all your energy."**