

Wanted: Men Who Understand the Times

By Craig Manners

“Don’t let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ.” (Colossians 2:8)

In an era where truth feels like a relic and chaos masquerades as progress, we find ourselves at a crossroads. Picture this: a young man scrolls endlessly through his feed, bombarded by viral outrage, fleeting trends, and polished propaganda. One moment, he’s laughing at a meme; the next, he’s wrestling with doubts about his purpose, his place in a world unravelling at the seams.

Sound familiar? It’s the soundtrack of our time—a symphony of confusion, where ancient wisdom is dismissed as outdated and bold conviction is branded as bigotry.

This is no accident. It’s a calculated fog, a cultural darkness draped in the bright lights of social media filters and celebrity endorsements. Across Australia, the West, and beyond, families fracture under the weight of redefined realities. Children are groomed by ideologies that blur lines between right and wrong, boys and girls, freedom and slavery.

Mental health crises surge like wildfires, fueled not just by stress but by a deeper malaise: the soul-sickness of living in a house built on sand. Despair spreads, marriages crumble, and a generation stares into the abyss, wondering if there’s anything worth fighting for.

But here’s the rallying cry echoing through history, from the battlefields of old to the digital trenches of today:

Wanted: Men who understand the times. Men who know what they should do. Not passive observers, but active guardians—men willing to step into the fray, to shield the vulnerable, to lead with unyielding resolve.

These are the warriors who don’t just survive the storm; they steer the ship through it.

And I believe they are among us, stirring in the hearts of everyday young men: the tradie finishing his shift, the student cramming for exams, the father tucking in his kids at night.

They are waiting for the spark to ignite their resolve.

Imagine the heroes this mission could forge. Men whose stories will inspire generations, etched not in marble statues but in the transformed lives of those they protect and uplift. It’s a noble pursuit that demands boldness, bravery, and persistence.

It is a simple quest. No rocket science required, just courage to tell the truth and encourage others toward the truth. God made you and has a purpose for you. Every individual has a divinely ordained plan, destiny, or reason for existence, often involving personal growth, service, and ultimately a return to God, as suggested by scripture like Jeremiah 29:11. “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” This purpose is specific, not random, and is discovered through faith, relationship with Jesus Christ, and aligning one’s life with God’s will as revealed in the Bible.

The cost? Sleepless nights, fierce opposition, the sting of rejection. But the reward? A legacy of light piercing the shadows, families fortified, nations renewed. In the words of the ancient chronicler, these will be like the sons of Issachar—discerning the signs of the age and rising to meet them (1 Chronicles 12:32).

To the young men reading this, whether you’re 14 or 58, just starting out or re-evaluating mid-journey, hear this: Your training ground is now.

Don't outsource your formation to the echo chambers of secular education alone. Sure, chase that degree; it's a tool in your arsenal, opening doors to influence. But true wisdom isn't minted in modern lecture halls—it's forged in the quiet discipline of independent study. Dive into the classics: Plato's dialogues on justice, Aristotle's meditations on virtue, Jane Austen's sharp wit on human folly. Above all, let the Bible be your compass.

Its pages aren't dusty relics; they're a living blueprint for navigating chaos. Read voraciously. Our upcoming heroes (of which you could be one) will not, and history's victors did not binge Netflix; they built empires of the mind, reading one page at a time.

Layer on practical skills. Study law to grasp the scaffolding of society, theology to anchor your soul. Whether you're enlisting as a soldier, arguing cases in court, banging a hammer as a carpenter, shaping minds as a teacher, shaping policy as a politician, or proclaiming truth from a pulpit, these disciplines sharpen your edge.

Dedicate an hour each evening to this intellectual forge. Ditch the doom-scrolling; trade pixels for principles. Your mind is a muscle, train it relentlessly, and it will carry you through debates, dilemmas, and dark days.

And don't neglect the temple of your body. In a world that worships comfort, strength is rebellion. Do 50 push-ups every day. Hit the gym. Make fitness a lifestyle: run through rain-slicked streets, eat meals fueled by real food, not fast-fashion calories. Learn nutrition not as a fad but as stewardship, your form is the vessel for your fight.

A strong body steels the spirit; it whispers, "You can endure" when the battle rages.

Now, pivot to the heart of legacy: Jesus, marriage and family. Life's brevity stares us down. Decades, not earthly eternities. Yet within these decades lie the purest of earthly joys: knowing Jesus, the covenant of marriage, the chaos and wonder of raising children. These aren't luxuries; they're the crucibles where character is refined. Don't let the world's cynics—those peddling "hustle culture" or "self-actualization" myths—talk you out of it.

God doesn't dangle provision like a carrot on a stick; He rains it down in season. You don't need a six-figure salary or a paid-off house to start. Begin with commitment, and watch struggles morph into shared triumphs: late-night talks that bind souls, tiny hands that teach humility, milestones that etch gratitude into your bones.

Embrace the mantle of the noble warrior: for Christ, for freedom, for the bedrock of Western civilization.

Our foundations—Judeo-Christian ethics from the Bible, the rule of law—are under siege. From cradle to campus, a radical agenda grooms the innocent with depravity disguised as diversity or equality.

Gender fluidity erodes biology's clarity; promoting one of society's races as privileged over others leads to racism (there is only one race, the human race); climate hysteria supplants stewardship with panic; historical revisionism whitewashes heroes into villains. Men, husbands, fathers, and families are undermined. Birth rates crumble. Hope, purpose, meaning, and ultimately civilized society die.

The current epidemic of confusion, where youth chase validation in algorithms rather than authenticity in community. Mental fragility, spreading by design, isn't a coincidence; it's the fruit of lies sown deep, often from kindergarden. If you believe the lies, you will suffer the mental confusion.

These narratives are brittle facades, propped up by deception. Poke them, and they crumble—no bedrock, just shifting sands.

Your role? Accelerate the collapse of the lies.

Arm yourself with truth, wielded boldly, persistently, courageously. Speak it in boardrooms, schoolyards, universities, trade schools, at the footy, in backyards, and ballot boxes. Put it out there on social media.

Expose the grooming in schools, the exploitation in media, the erosion of innocence everywhere.

You'll draw allies—disillusioned souls hungry for honesty. Lead them not with bluster, but with fidelity to Jesus, the ultimate Truth-bearer. Stick to Scripture as your playbook; it has outlasted empires for a reason.



Victory isn't a maybe—it's assured. Lies self-destruct; truth endures. As you fight, remember: Following Jesus isn't one option among many. It's the apex of existence—the path to unshakeable joy, profound peace, ironclad purpose, and eternal horizon.

No cause rivals following Jesus. Philanthropy feeds bodies; activism stirs crowds; ambition builds fortunes. But Christ changes lives and redeems souls. He turns orphans into heirs, wanderers into warriors, despair into dawn.

True friendship flows from this well. A real friend doesn't flatter with fables; they confront with clarity, pulling you from the pit.

Progressives, for all their often false "compassion," peddle illusions that chain rather than liberate.

Be the antidote: the voice saying, "This way leads to life." Free the captives—those shackled by Marxist mirages (left or right), welfare webs, pharmaceutical fogs, counterfeit counsel, debt's drag, or screens' siren song.

Echo the psalmist's vision: God "upholds the cause of the oppressed... sets prisoners free... lifts up those who are bowed down" (Psalm 146:7-9). Be His hands in a cowered world.

Resources? They're manifold, and yours for the claiming. "For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills" (Psalm 50:10).

Hone the art of provision: work diligently to earn, wisely to save, shrewdly to invest. Frugality isn't deprivation; it's freedom from stuff's tyranny.

Yet fixate not on finances—trust Jesus, the Provider. He'll orchestrate surprises that bolster your faith. Journal them; they'll fuel the fire for others.

Courage, then, is your creed. Like Issachar's sons, discern and act. Defend the weak—the poor, the child, the widow—with the ferocity of a lion and the tenderness of a shepherd.

"Blessed are those who have regard for the weak; the Lord delivers them in times of trouble" (Psalm 41:1-2).

In this rotten culture's grip, be the liberator.

Love seals the summons. We crave it— to give, to receive, to belong. Yet the world's version is a shallow echo: fleeting flings, conditional affection, weak vows. God's love? It's sacrificial, transformative—the Father giving His Son so we might live (John 3:16). To love Him is to obey: cherish neighbours (Matthew 19:19), shepherd the distressed (James 1:27), serve all with good (Galatians 6:10). Be the Good Samaritan in traffic jams and Twitter storms; feed the hungry, heal the hurting, visit the forgotten (Matthew 25:35-36).

This love demands truth-telling. Lies about creation, history, marriage, gender, race, climate—they're modern idols, fracturing lives. When you hear them—on campuses, in headlines, at dinner tables—stand firm. Correct with grace, but correct nonetheless.

God orchestrates by truth; align your life to it, and watch providence unfold.

Young men, the hour is yours. No billboards or lightning bolts required, step forward today. For two millennia, Christ's followers have testified: This is the grandest adventure.

Surrender to Him; let Him captain your course. Read the Bible daily—not as drudgery, but delight. Its truths preserved civilization through plagues and persecutions; now, guard them against the cancellers' tide.

They mock the faithful as "weird" or "deplorable," but their arsenal is empty—hopelessness masquerading as hope. Jesus triumphs every time (Acts 4:12).

Rise, then. Understand the times. Know what to do, and do it. Be the men the world needs—and the sons your Father calls. The darkness flees at dawn's first light. Will you carry the torch?



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[This article is an edited version of an article written by Craig Manners (Original: <https://www.craigmanners.com/menofissachar.html>), put through Grok for grammar and editing. The finished article is effectively the same outcome, but no doubt put in much more compelling language and grammar. Therefore, the author chose to change the Grok article and use the bulk of it as presented here. Therefore, authorship is shared by Craig Manners and Grok! This is probably a new normal ahead, and as long as it is acknowledged, I see no real problem with it. The article is specifically aimed at young men because the author has concluded that they are a vital cohort to improving our society, and they need to be empowered. It is not to say that young women cannot play a role in the transformation and restoration of Western civilization; they most certainly can, it is just that the author sees the time is ripe to encourage young men to step up.]