

INTRO

Good Morning brothers and sisters. It is great to be in the house of the Lord with you all this Sunday. Let's begin in prayer

PRAY

This Sunday school class block has been going through. The Life of the Church.

MISSION

Before we look into, what the mission of the church is we need to define the word Mission.

Mission is a trendy word in Christian and non-Christian circles alike and the more we hear it the more watered down the word can mean. From the super vague mission statement of a company for those of you who work in corporate space to the objectives of a local non-profit everyone has a mission statement why is that?

Mission - a specific task for a specific group of people.

The question that we are asking today is what is the task that God has given His church?

What is the mission of the Church? The Great Commission.

Why the Great Commission? There are many reasons but I am going to give you the 5 reasons Kevin Deyoung gives in his book on the mission of the church.

1. The Bible is a missional book
2. It makes sense that we find the Mission in the NT
3. It makes sense that we would follow Christ's directives
4. The placement of the Great Commission is important (Christ's last words before ascension.
5. The Great Commission is a summary for major themes found in the Gospels

Paraphrase of a section: Everything in Matthew culminates in and every out of Acts flows from the Great Commission

So before we look into our assignment of what we have been given by God to do in the Great Commission. Let's first cover three important disclaimers before we start.

1st: Today we are talking about the mission of the church corporately. Not the mission of the Christian member. Now it will have huge implication on how the church member lives their lives. But we are looking at this from a church perspective. We oftentimes can take the entire weight of this passage on ourselves which is not the intention.

2nd: The church has an unchanging mission mission of the church is not the mission of a parachurch ministry. Because we can be involved in non-church organizations. We can sometimes accidentally make the objective of the organization the

objective of the church. CO (glorifying God by building laborers on the campus for the lost world).

3rd: The church has an unchanging focus given by Christ. This means that our focus is on abiding in Christ above our fruit.

The Great Commission answers the question: What does Christ want to see from His disciples till he returns?

We are about to read the GC but there is a temptation to condense or expand a definition. But because this definition is in the Bible it does not need any tweaking.

READ MATTHEW 28:16-20

GO - Let's start first by talking about how the gospel is spread
PERSECUTION
PROVIDENCE
PURPOSEFUL

In the Great Commission, purposeful spread of the Gospel is the primary focus. This involves qualified people whom the church has raised up to GO with the Gospel

Acts 13:1-3 You either go or send
These are the means by which disciples are made.

MAKE - it's easy when we read the phrase MAKE DISCIPLES to take the weight and put in on ourselves individually or that the power comes from the church. But we often forget that we MAKE disciples in light of the therefore. In light of Christ's authority in heaven and on earth. We are not making disciples of our own wishes but from the command of the risen Christ.

Pride and Pressure

Also notice we don't do any of the converting. The Church GOES, BAPTIZES, AND TEACHES

Part of the making of the disciples is for the disciples to mimic what Jesus did with them. He called them to follow Him.

This passage doesn't explicitly tell us how these people came to faith by what means. That is not the big emphasis. But here are two quick examples

Public Proclamation - Acts 2:36 - 38

Private conversation - John 1:35 - 42

God can use many means

DISCIPLES - Students. Pupils.

I love this word

This is a life long student of Christ

ALL NATIONS - this is why we have the command to GO

Looking forward we can see what eternity will look like. Revelation 5:9

That is where the church should go and that is where the church should send to all nations.

Baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Not only a picture of Christ death and resurrection but also an identification

- a. Identify new disciples with Christ
- b. Identify new disciples with Christ's people
- c. God identifies with these new disciple (in His name)

TEACHING - Implies learning. Makes sense with our word pupil or student.

TO OBSERVE

Why does it not say teaching them to DO? All that I have commanded you

Keep carefully/guard

Matthew 27:35-36

ALL THAT CHRIST I HAVE COMMANDED - This is a stunning point. It has a lot to it. But this Jesus is commanding as God. This is a stunning display of His deity.

BEHOLD I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

Encourage

Embolden - we have Christ with us as His people by the power of the Holy Spirit. John 16 Jesus says it is better that He goes away.

EVEN TO THE END OF THE AGE

He is with us the whole time

And then we will be with Him

APPLICATION

1. Praise God for such a Great Mission
 - a. This mission works here we are in Mebane NC over 2000 years later and 6000+ away depending on how you travel
 - b. He has specifics for us. That we aren't left to figure it out which we wouldn't be able to.
2. Consider being sent out of this church. Or continue to support the sending out of disciple makers into the nations
3. MAKE disciples
4. Become a church member
5. Guard the WORD inside this church from attacks outside and inside
6. Remember we do this in Christ's authority and with His presence