
Viewing & Doing missions and evangelism

Selected passages

Introduction Tonight we conclude our May series titled “An outreach-focused Life”. What we’ve tried to do over the last couple of weeks is to remind us of our glorious duty of spreading a passion for Christ among those who have a passion for everything but Christ. In other words, we aimed through this series to strengthen our efforts in both missions and evangelism.

Tonight we will wrap up the series by teaching the message titled *Viewing and Doing missions and evangelism*. This message is designed to do a couple of things.

1. *Viewing missions and evangelism*. The first part of the message has to do with education. We will sketch out a summary of the Great Commission; that is, its duration (i.e. is it still binding for today), its definition (i.e. what specifically is its task, its differences (i.e. how missions differs from evangelism)).
2. *Doing missions and evangelism*. The second part of the message has to do with motivation and application. Here we will listen to some truths to treasure and lay out some plans to participate. Our aim at this point is to help each of us participate in both missions and evangelism.

Let’s begin with a summary of the Great Commission.

A summary of the Great Commission

Matthew 28:18-20

As we make some observations over Matthew 28:18-20, we will note two things; 1) Its duration 2) Its definition. Let’s read the Great Commission together and then make these observations.

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age”

Duration

to the end of the age (see also 13:39,40,49)

First, notice with me the Great Commission’s duration. Was Jesus referring to a ministry restricted to the first century disciples? Or does his commission hold sway over his disciples down through the ages leading into the 21st century?

The phrase “to the end of the age” answers these questions. To the end of the age Jesus will be with his disciples as they (or in order to) carry out the Great Commission. “The end of the age” has already been defined by Matthew. Turn back with me to 13:39,40,49 <read>. Jesus, in parables, talks about the close / end of the age when

the wicked will be judged fully and finally. When Jesus uses the same phrase in the Great Commission, he is referring to the age prior to this awful judgment. He is talking about the time leading up to the final judgment. This means that the Great Commission applies not only to the 1st century. It applies to Clearcreek Chapel as well.

Definition

make disciples of all the nations (cf. Acts 3:25; Rom.15:9-12 Rev.5:9-10; Luke 24:45-47

The second observation I would like to make from Matt.28:18-20 is seen in the phrase “make disciples of all the nations”. Here we come across the definition of the Great Commission. Here we see both the “what” and the “where” of the commission. Jesus commands his people to make disciples of Christ. All of us should seek to do all we can to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ.

How do you recognize a disciple? What does it mean to be and make a disciple? Matthew’s gospel does well at answering this question. To summarize Matthew’s view we could say that disciples are changed by His sovereign grace and dedicated to the person and cause of Jesus Christ (4:17-20). This dedication is devoted to organize and orient one’s life around the kingdom of God (6:33). This kingdom living is spelled out in Matthew chapters 5-7. Here we see that a disciple is a learner (5:2), a servant (7:12), devoted to prayer and purity (6:5), understands the importance of God’s Word (7:24), committed to the importance of witness and evangelism (5:16), sold on the church and body life (6:9), one who values the ministry of selfless giving (6:19), and one who constantly needs God’s mercy and grace (7:11). A disciple of Jesus Christ rejoices at the unimaginable privilege of being associated with Jesus Christ; even if it costs him/her everything (5:12). This is what we are to be and make.

Next, where should the church make these types of people? The phrase “among all the nations” answers this question for us. For the sake of time I will only point to selected passages to make the case that “nations” means ethnic people groups not Gentile individuals. What I am highlighting at this point is the task of missions in light of the Great Commission. This task is not to reach as many individuals as possible (that is the task of evangelism). Rather, it is the task of reaching all the ethnic groups of the world.

[To see this argument clearly we’ve made available articles out at the booth in the lobby from various authors. Visit there to pick up more information.]

This understanding is shaped by the Old Testament hope. This hope holds on to the fact that God will bless all the nations of the world and create a world-wide celebration over Him. This promise extending to all the families of the earth is repeated in Genesis (cf. 12:1-3; 18:18; 22:18; 26:4; 28:14). When Peter in Acts 3:25 and Paul in Gal.3:6-8 wanted to teach on the missionary responsibility and movement of the Church, they referred to the Abrahamic promise.

These connections from the N.T. back to the O.T. point to interpreting the task of Great Commission. It is not some general reaching out to as many Gentiles as we can from various countries. Rather, it is a focused and measured and dangerous task of reaching all the people groups of the earth in order to win some individuals among all these groups. (i.e. planting a biblical local church) As a result we hear the apostle John saying “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation” (Rev.5:9).

Implication

The implication of these observations is to drive and shape our efforts in missions and evangelism at the Chapel. Succinctly put, what we are saying the Bible says relating to the task missions and the task of evangelism is this.

- Task of missions: A church for every people group
- Task of evangelism: The gospel for every person

Truths to Treasure

Having outlined the Great Commission with some of its characteristics, we now want to glance at truths to treasure in order to help motivate us to love and good deeds. There are four truths to treasure that relate to missions and evangelism that I trust will incite your hearts. These truths are:

1. God’s ultimate goal is to make known and be praised for his glory among all the peoples.
(Mal.1:11; Rom.9:17; 15:9)
2. God’s ultimate goal cannot fail.
(Matt.16:18; 24:14; 28:18)
3. God’s ultimate goal requires from His people sacrifice and suffering.
(Matt.10:16; 24:9, 14)
4. God’s ultimate goal fully and forever glorifies his perfections and fully and forever satisfies his people.
(1Corinthians 15:28; 1Romans 8:18; Phil.1:20-21)

Plans to Participate

Now that we have a working understanding of both missions and evangelism, now that we have truths to treasure in front of us let’s shift our attention to applications. I would like to close tonight with some practical ways of involvement in missions and evangelism. Here I will outline for us a 3 month plan for each of us to take part in both missions and evangelism.

Generally

1. Reflect regularly upon God's scope and strategy
2. Regularly participate in The Chapel's current missions
 1. Regular, proportionate giving
 2. Regular involvement in missions
3. Read good literature

Specifically

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| 1. <i>Lobby Literature</i> | <i>Summer months</i> |
| 2. <i>Building & Bridging Relationships</i> | <i>Ongoing</i> |
| 3. <i>E.T.S. Workshop</i> | <i>June 11</i> |
| 4. <i>Moving-in made Easier</i> | <i>Summer months</i> |
| 5. <i>Fair Ministry</i> | <i>July 17-22</i> |
| 6. <i>Fun in the Sun</i> | <i>mid August</i> |

Conclusion

Viewing and Doing Missions and Evangelism is all about one thing. To strive to complete the tasks we've observed is of utmost importance.

But why are we to complete the task? What are we aiming to do?

Indeed to increase in evangelism and mission will improve the living conditions of the poor.

But that's not the main thing.

Indeed to increase in evangelism and missions will decrease crime and teenage pregnancy and HIV

But that's not the main thing.

Indeed to increase in evangelism and missions will improve stability in the world's institutions.

But that's not the main thing.

Indeed to increase in evangelism and missions will help fulfill our duty.

But that's not the main thing.

Indeed to increase in evangelism and missions will bring eternal life to many.

But that's not the main thing.

Why we dedicated the month of May to evangelism and missions is not ultimately about man.

It is ultimately that to the ends of the earth there might be never-ending, ever-increasing fervent worship of Jesus Christ our LORD.

Let's stand and recite together Rev.7:9.

“After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude, that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb...” Rev 7:9