

EM LIVING LIFE (10) THE GREAT COMMISSION I

(20.11.10)

(1) WHAT IS A 'MISSION'?

1. Why definition matters

A. *"If everything is mission, nothing is mission"* – Stephen Neil

2. So, what is 'mission'?

A. A mission *"presupposes a sender, a person or persons sent by the sender, those to whom one is sent, and an assignment."* – David Bosch, missiologist

- (1) the one who _____
- (2) the one being _____
- (3) the ones to _____ you are sent
- (4) A specific _____

3. What then, is the mission of the church?

(2) WHY THE GREAT COMMISSION?

1. Other competing passages

- A. (Gen 12:1-3)
- B. (Ex 19:6; 1Pet 2:9)
- C. (Isa 61; Lk 4:18-19)

2. When it comes to the mission of the church, _____ is a better place to turn to than OT

- A. (G12:3)
- B. (Matt 15:24)
- C. (Gal 6:16)

3. Within NT, it makes sense to look to _____ Himself for the mission of the church

- A. (Jn 20:21)
- B. (Jn 4:34)
- C. (Jn 6:39)

4. The strategic importance of the Great Commission

A. (Matt 28) Its location

- (v.10, v.16)
- (4:15; Isa 9:2)
- (4:23; 28:16)

B. Its summation

- It sums up the major themes of the _____
- "Today scholars agree that the entire gospel points to these final verses: all the threads woven into the fabric of Matthew, from chapter 1 onward, draw together here." – David Bosch

C. Everything in Acts & the rest of the NT _____ from it

(3) WHAT IS THE GREAT COMMISSION ALL ABOUT?

1. Structure

- A. Claim (v.18)
- B. Command (v.19)
- C. Comfort (v.20)

2. The Command

- A. Four main verbs:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

(4) WHY IS MAKING DISCIPLES THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH?

1. The church must change or die

- A. "As the research data clearly shows, churches are not doing the job. If the local church is the hope of the world, then the world has no hope." – George Barna
 - The church is losing people
 - The church has lost its mission.

2. Is the church losing people?

3. Should the church change her mission to something more relevant?

- A. We must care for all human suffering, especially _____ suffering

- B. What is the greatest need of the world, what therefore is the most loving thing to do?
 - Death (Heb 9:27)

 - Do not be afraid of death
 - (Ps 23:4)

 - (1Cor 15:55)

 - (Heb 13:6)

 - But fear this!
 - (MT 10:28)

“The responsibility of the church in the new age is the same as its responsibility in every age. It is to testify that this world is lost in sin; that the span of human life – no, all the length of human history – is an infinitesimal island in the awful depths of eternity; that there is a mysterious, holy, living God, Creator of all, Upholder of all, infinitely beyond all; that he has revealed himself to us in his Word and offered us communion with himself through Jesus Christ the Lord; that there is no other salvation, for individuals or for nations, save this, but that this salvation is full and free, and that whoever possesses it has for himself and for all others to whom he may be the instrument of bringing it a treasure compared with which all the kingdoms of the earth – no, all the wonders of the starry heavens – are as the dust of the street. An unpopular message it is – an impractical message, we are told. But it is the message of the Christian church. Neglect it, and you will have destruction; heed it, and you will have life.” – Gresham Machen, 1933.