

THEN THE WORLD 27.12.2020am

Can we reach the world with the Gospel before the Lord returns?

“Yes, we can” but we have to be active in reaching this aim. (9,600 people groups reached with the Gospel, 7,000 people groups that are unreached). To do this we need to step out of the boat, just like Peter the Apostle and keep our eyes on Jesus and sow in faith. One person sows, another person waters and another person reaps the harvest; mission: a body of believers working together for the Kingdom of God.

Mission is defined as “A specific task or duty; or a group of people sent on a mission”. A missionary is a person sent abroad to do religious or social work. A soldier can be on a mission to attack the enemy, or a football team on a mission to win the premiership. Our mission is to win souls for the Kingdom of God.

Mission in a Christian sense is, not just mission over there, but mission everywhere; any task that wins souls for the Kingdom is Mission with a capital “M”.

Recently we have looked at where our treasure is and there will be a great end time harvest when the Lord pours out His Spirit on all flesh. Today, we also need a fresh touch and anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Last week we looked at Jesus, and us, as the light of the world.

In Genesis 1:1-5 The first Day “... ³Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So, the evening and the morning were the first day.”

This was not the sun or the moon, **it was the Light of God of which the pre-incarnate Jesus was part of. Again: Jesus is the light of the world.** The sun and the moon were not created until Day 4. Jesus when on earth was the “Light” of the World. Now, we as believers in Christ are the light of the world.

Jesus left us in no doubt when *He stated that we were to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. **Mark 16:15 (NKJV)***

APPLICATION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF MISSION

If we look at the “Great Commission” in its various forms in the Gospels and Acts, we can see that the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit are of paramount importance:

Matthew 28:19-20: ¹⁹*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, ²⁰teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”* (NKJV)

Mark 16:15-18: ¹⁵*And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”*

Jesus says: “In My Name”. This is important particularly when we look at **Jude Verse 9:** ⁹*Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!”* It’s always safe to follow this example.

Then these lesser known “Commission” scriptures are:

- **Luke 24:** ⁴⁶*Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸And you are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”* (NKJV)
- **John 20:21:** ²¹*So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” ²²And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”* (NKJV)

Then in Acts 1:5-8, Jesus also proclaims: His disciples will receive the Holy Spirit and He brings correction when they ask when the restoration of the Kingdom to Israel will be. This really means a future event when “mans” relationship to God is restored to what it was before Adam’s sin.

Some key points are:

- We will receive power **Acts 1:5-8**
- We will receive the Holy Spirit **Acts 2:1-21**
- We will be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to “Then the World”
- **Verses 17-18** were received at Pentecost and are with us today
- **Verses 19-21** have not yet occurred

Acts 2:19-21: *“¹⁹I will show wonders in heaven above And, signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke. ²⁰The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. ²¹And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved.’ (NKJV)*

Romans 10:13-15

¹³For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” ¹⁴How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵And how shall they preach unless they are sent?”

The unreached people groups in our own back yard and overseas need apostles to be sent. The Greek word for apostle is very Pentecostal.

Apostolos *ap-os'-tol-os*; a *delegate*; specifically, an *ambassador* of the Gospel; officially a *commissioner* of Christ (“apostle”), (**with miraculous powers**): apostle, messenger, **he that is sent**.

Jesus’s ministry was one of signs and wonders; He was fully God and fully man and did only what His Father told Him to do. We are well equipped today, **more so than Jesus and His disciples were before Pentecost**. We have the Holy Spirit and the Gifts of the Spirit so we can demonstrate that signs and wonders are for today such as: Casting out demons; healing the sick; raising the dead; tongues; prophecy; words of knowledge; faith...

Our commission from God is to preach the Gospel and win souls; first in Geraldton, then WA, then Australia and “Then the World”.

Raising the dead:

The Bible says we are dead in our sin prior to salvation, living in the kingdom of darkness. Our job as Christian missionaries is to win souls for the Kingdom of light, so in leading someone to Christ, they are translated from death in the kingdom of darkness, to life (born again, new life, new creation); from darkness to the kingdom of light – salvation considered the greatest miracle, raising people from death to life. Every time we lead a soul to Jesus, and they are “born again” (John 3:3,5) they are in effect being raised from the dead. “You will raise the dead”. Receiving Christ creates a new life just the same as physically raising a non-breathing dead person. The witness to those who are yet to believe is just as powerful.

Preparing for Mission:

Whether its going out to be full time missionaries or local ministry the preparation is the same.

Prepare and Go:

- We need to know the Word of God
- We need to hear from God by the Holy Spirit
- We know Why, (God told us in His Word)
- We need to know where, when, how
- We need to be obedient
- We need to finish the race, don't quit
- We need to love the Lord with all our heart, with all our soul and all our mind
- We need to love our neighbours
- **Then the world!**