

CONNECTING TO YOUR MISSION



The Great Commission

*“You then are to go and make disciples **of all the nations** and baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to observe all that I have commanded you and remember, I am with you always, even to the end of the world.” Matthew 28:19, 20*

THE THREE-FOLD PURPOSE OF THE GREAT COMMISSION

1. _____ them.
(Greek- “mathetes” [math-ay-tes]) which means “learner,” or thought accompanied by endeavor.

Jesus’ first purpose for His followers was that they would make _____ &
_____ out of the new converts to Christianity. Not just believers.

This is why the local church is so important. It is the church’s responsibility to raise up people who know how to not only hear the Word of God, but _____ it.

2. _____ them.
Though we have already discussed baptism, it is important to realize its importance by way of the Great Commission.

3. _____ them.
(Greek - “did-as’-ko”) to give instruction.
The word “observe” literally means “_____.” The disciples could have been called the “the keeping ones” because of the way they “kept” the teachings of Christ in their heart.

Disciples not only teach new converts to “learn and do” the teachings of Christ, but also to *keep* the word in their _____.

The same Greek work for “keep” is used of the guards who were posted outside Jesus’ tomb. They were there to guard the tomb with their life. That is how we’re to guard His Word in our hearts.

“O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust...” 1 Timothy 6:20a

THERE ARE THREE PURPOSES IN EACH BELIEVER’S LIFE

- To _____ God.
*“But you are God’s chosen generation, His royal priesthood, His holy nation, His very own possession...It is for you now to **demonstrate the praises** of Him who has called you out of darkness and into His amazing light.” 1 Peter 2:9*
- To _____ like Jesus.
*“For God knew His people in advance, and He chose them to **become like His Son...**”
Romans 8:28*
- To _____ to the lost.
*“You are the **salt** of the earth...You are the **light** of the world – like a city on a mountain, glowing in the night for all to see. Don’t hide your light under a basket! Instead, put it on a stand and let it shine for all.” Matthew 5:13-16*

Any local church that is not _____ that is, winning the lost to Christ, is failing to walk in one of its primary purposes. Any Christian who is not actively involved in _____ is also missing one of his or her primary purposes of their role as a Christ follower. In the early church there was an _____ of soul-winning.

“Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church—about **three thousand** in all.” Acts 2:41

“And **each day** the Lord added to their group those who were being saved.” Acts 2:47

- You know that God is moving when people are regularly being _____.
“...The whole city was favorable to them, and each day God added to them all who were being saved.” Acts 2:47

- Many Christians do not share their faith out of a feeling of _____.

The result is “_____.” They wonder what they will say, how they will say it, and if they will be asked questions they can’t answer.

Yet Jesus promised, “For I will give you the **right words** and such wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to reply.” Luke 21:15

- Jesus also promised a great reward for those who were persecuted for sharing the gospel.
“God blesses you when you are mocked and persecuted and lied about because you are my followers. Be happy about it! Be very glad! **For a great reward awaits you in heaven!**” Matthew. 5:11,12

So, we do not live to be _____ by _____, but to be _____ by God.

HOW TO HAVE A GOOD R.E.A.C.H.

Once we have learned our **S.H.A.P.E.**, we must use it to reach out to others. In the parable of the talents, Jesus condemned the servant who buried his talent instead of using it for the kingdom.

“For the man who uses well what he is given shall be given more, and he shall have abundance. But from the man who is unfaithful, even what little responsibility he has shall be taken away from him.” Matthew. 5:29

The Bible teaches us how to reach people for Christ. The following acronym has been written to help you easily remember five simple truths about reaching others for Christ.

R _____ the temptation to be silent.
“For God has not given us a spirit of cowardice, but a spirit of power and love and a sound mind.” II Timothy. 1:6-7

- Even the great apostle Paul had to battle the temptation to be silent.

“And pray for me, too, that I may be able to speak the message here boldly...” Ephesians. 6:18-19

E _____ your faith in love.
“If I could speak in any language in heaven or on earth but didn’t love others, I would only be making meaningless noise like a loud gong or clanging cymbal.” I Corinthians. 13:1

- There is a vast difference between “preaching at” and “speaking to.” We’re not anointed to beat people over the head, but to speak to their _____.

Pray for the Word of Wisdom and the Word of Knowledge.

A _____ be ready.

“Be ready at any time to give a quiet and reverent answer to any man who wants a reason for the hope you have within you.” I Peter 3:15

REMEMBER....

There is never a _____ time to do something _____ for God!

C _____ your talk with an appeal.

“Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, ‘Save yourself from this generation that has gone astray.’” Acts 2:40

- An appeal is encouraging a _____ to shared truth. It is an invitation to prayer, either with you or alone.

H _____ them into a local church.

“The church then had peace throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria, and it grew in strength and numbers.” Acts 2:47

- It is not just our responsibility to win people to Christ, but to see to it that they find a _____.

- When these simple R.E.A.C.H. steps are followed, you will grow in your ability to _____ others for Christ. In doing so, you will be fulfilling your purpose and _____ on this earth.

“...those who turn many to righteousness will shine like stars forever.” Daniel 12:3

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT THE P.O.W.E.R. OF YOUR TESTIMONY

There is nothing stronger than a _____. You do not have to be a theologian to give one.

DEFINITION: (Testimony - Greek “marturion” = a witness, one who has seen something)

*“For we cannot but speak the things we have **seen and heard.**”* Acts 4:20

- Preaching is different from a testimony.
Preaching is objectively _____.
- A personal testimony springs from the speakers _____.
- Sharing your testimony is a part of your _____ mission.

HERE ARE FIVE P.O.W.E.R. TRUTHS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR TESTIMONY

P _____ will listen to a personal testimony.

“When they saw the complete assurance of Peter and John, who were in their view uneducated and untrained men, they were staggered, recognizing them as men who had been with Jesus.” Acts 4:13

It was not their “college knowledge” but their personal testimony that impacted the Sanhedrin
“The result was that the people were astonished at seeing dumb men speak, crippled men healed, lame men walking about and blind men having recovered their sight. And they praised the God of Israel.”
Matthew. 15:31

O _____ Satan is the result of a testimony.

“And they have defeated him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of their **testimony**.”
Revelation. 12:11

“Then they mobbed him, putting their hands over their ears, drowning out his voice with their shouts.”
Acts 7:57

W _____ all else fails, share your testimony

“For we cannot but speak the things we have **seen and heard**.” Acts 4:20

“I don’t know whether he is a sinner,” the man replied. “But I know this: I was blind, and now I can see!” John 9:25

The young man was no preacher or theologian, but he had a _____ of the healing power of God!

E _____ with God is the prerequisite for a personal testimony. The Gospels are not only a record book of what Jesus said and did, but are the _____ of the disciples.

“I saw all this myself and have given an accurate report so that you also can believe.” John 19:35

“We cannot stop telling about the wonderful things we have **seen and heard**.” Acts 4:20

Whatever God has done in your life is _____ for a testimony.

R _____ God’s blessings on your life is the essence of a testimony. Here is a great example...

“I waited patiently for the Lord to help me, and He turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the pit of despair, out of the mud and the mire. He set my feet on solid ground and steadied me as I walked along. He has given me a new song to sing, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see what He has done and be astounded. They will put their trust in the Lord.” Psalm. 40:1-3

Notice how David itemizes what God had done for him. “He heard, He lifted, He set, He steadied, He gave.” And the result of the testimony was _____.

THERE ARE TWO WAYS THAT EVERY BELIEVER IS TO SHARE HIS TESTIMONY.

1. We are to share our testimony _____.

“Go home to your own people (family and friends) **and tell them what the Lord has done for you, and how kind He has been to you!**” Mark 5:19

The Bible teaches that without a _____ (declarer, testifier) the lost will not be saved.

“Now when they **heard this**, they were cut to the heart...” Acts 2:37

GOD IS WITH US WHEN WE VERBALLY TESTIFY AND WILL _____ OUR TESTIMONY.

*“But it will turn out for you for as an occasion for **testimony**...for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist.” Luke 21:13-15*

2. We are to share our testimony by our _____.

*“You are the salt of the earth...You are the light of the world – like a city on a mountain, glowing in the night for all to see...let your **good deeds** shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.” Matthew. 5:13-16*

_____ will not get you into heaven. We are saved by grace (unearned favor) through the finished work of Christ. Yet works _____ and bring glory to God.

*“...I can’t see your faith if you don’t have good deeds, but I will show you my faith **through my good deeds**.” James 2:18*

Based on Jesus’ words, we know that works...

1. Are _____ to the casual observer.

“...that they may see your good works...” Matthew 5:16

2. Bring _____ to God.

“My true disciples produce much fruit. This brings great glory to My Father.” John 15:8

3. Point to the _____ of God in our lives.

“There was a believer in Joppa named Tabitha. She was always doing kind things for others and helping the poor.” Acts 9:36

As green grass is the result of a well-watered lawn, so good works testify of a living _____.

THREE INGREDIENTS OF A POWERFUL TESTIMONY

1. A powerful and effective testimony gives _____ about the past without dwelling on explicit gory details.

Paul’s testimony to King Agrippa is an excellent example.

“This I also did in Jerusalem and many of the saints I shut up in prison...” Acts 26:10

Explicit gory details can _____ the listeners from hearing your main point, which is what Jesus did for you.

2. The intervention of Jesus Christ into your life is the central _____ of any testimony.

“...at midday I saw a light from the sky, far brighter than the sun, blazing about me, and I heard a voice saying to me in Hebrew, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?’” Acts 26:12-18

- Notice how the climax of Paul’s testimony is the _____ into his life and how it changed him.

Jesus is shown as _____.

3. _____ was used to support and validate his personal testimony.

Just like a good steak is seasoned to add flavor, your testimony should be seasoned with _____.

“For the word of God is living and powerful...” Heb. 4:12

Top Ten reasons to fulfill the mission of The Great Commission.

-Dr. David Shibley, Global Advance-

1. _____ - Jesus is worthy to be known, loved, obeyed and worshiped by every tribe, people and nation. Early preachers went out for the honor of His name. *“They went out for His name’s sake”* 3 John 7
2. _____ - God longs to bring rebellious humanity into His loving embrace.
“The Lord is...not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance”
Peter 3:9
3. _____ -There is a worldwide move of God’s Spirit that is extending the church more rapidly than ever.
“Look among the nations and watch – be utterly astounded! For I will work a work in your days which you would not believe, though it were told you” Habakkuk 1:5
4. _____ - Around the world more people are committing their lives to Jesus Christ than ever in history.
“Lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!” John 4:35
5. _____ - Without Jesus Christ people are spiritually lost and headed for an eternity without God and without hope.
“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life...He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” John 3:16
6. _____ - The most basic of all human rights is the right to hear the gospel.

Oswald J. Smith issued this challenge: “Why should anyone hear the gospel twice until everyone has heard it once?”

“Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, for Your judgments have been manifested”. Revelation 15:4

7. _____ - Jesus Christ has commissioned us to preach the gospel to every person and make disciples of every people.
“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations.” Matthew 28:19
8. _____ - At the Judgment Seat of Christ we will give an account of our stewardship in these days of great evangelistic opportunity.
“For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ...So then each of us shall give account of himself to God” Romans 14:10, 12
9. _____ - God has promised that one day the Great Commission will become the great fulfillment!
“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea” Habakkuk 2:14
10. _____ - God wants to use you as a catalyst for the fulfilling of the Great Commission.
“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” 1 Peter 2:9

In light of these things, let us be willing to boldly declare what the Lord has done for us! Jesus said...

“For whoever is ashamed of Me and My works in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.” Mark 8:38

THE CHURCH ON THE ROCK NORTH MISSIONS COMMITMENT



- I will, to the best of my ability, faithfully share God’s love with those that God brings into my path. I will share with them **verbally** as well as with my **lifestyle**, the good news of Jesus Christ and His power to forgive sin.
- I will pray for those around me, both friend and foe, that the light of God’s Word would shine in their hearts and that the Holy Spirit would lovingly convict them of sin and draw them to a place of repentance and restoration with God.
- I commit to always live my life with the understanding that I am an ambassador to this world and I will make every effort to stay focused on my true purpose of **glorifying God, becoming more like Christ, and sharing His love** with a lost and dying world.”

Date: _____

Name: (print) _____

Signed: _____