

The Gospel Herald

“As the truth is in Jesus” (Ephesians 4:21)

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS

by
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*“And he said unto Them, ‘Go ye unto all the world,
and preach the Gospel to every creature.’”*

(Mark 16:15)

In the examination of this scripture from the Gospel of Mark, it would appear that the initial intent is for EVERY believer to GO unto all the world and preach the Gospel...Is not this the interpretation by the majority of Christendom?

To whom was our Lord Jesus speaking? Who are the THEM in the text? Yes, there was a great commission given, but to whom was it given? The entire multitude of believers throughout all the generations? Or was it directly to the eleven disciples that were present as indicated in the previous verse?

If in fact it was intended for ALL believers throughout ALL generations to be obedient to this command of our Lord Jesus, we have FAILED in our Lord’s command. If you are persuaded that this command is for all believers to fulfill in our life time, I dare say you and I have failed. Have you spoken to your nearest neighbor of the gospel? Have you spoke to all your acquaintances, coworkers, business customers and family personally about the Gospel? Would being zealous in an attempt to preach the gospel TO ALL hinder your business contacts?

Where all the emphasis on the necessity to “preach the gospel to every creature” comes from, is the mind set that the gospel is the means that brings and causes salvation to be initiated. When in fact, LIFE must be imparted in the sinner for them to SEE and HEAR the gospel message of salvation. For man in their natural state are DEAD in trespasses and sins, alien from God, spiritual dead, spiritually deaf, spiritually blind. How can the depraved creature be transformed from such Spiritually dead state and brought to LIFE? ONLY by the quickening of the Holy Spirit, which is the operation of divine sovereign grace (unmerited favor) apart from ANY work or assistance of the sinner. If

faith is of necessity to please God, how is it obtained? It is a FRUIT of the SPIRIT (Gal. 5:22), faith is the evidence of the Spirit's presence in the soul, which manifest a belief in the Lord Jesus Christ.

How would you interpret the following scripture regarding the great commission given to the disciples? "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel (the Israel of God is the new covenant believer, Gal.6:16) after those days, saith the Lord; I will put laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts; and I will be to them a GOD, and they shall be to me a people; And they SHALL NOT teach every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, "KNOW the LORD"; for ALL shall know me, from the least to the greatest. I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember NO MORE" (Hebrews 8: 10-12).

This text is addressing the New Covenant promise prophesied in the Old Testament regarding the manifestation of Christ building his Church. God can and does use means to bring about his determined will. The gospel IS NOT the means that brings the Spirit, nor causes faith, but the gospel is a means that brings "Life and immortality to LIGHT through the gospel" (II Tim. 1:10).

The primary means of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ IS NOT the tool that saves souls, but the "Good News" to them that are blessed to believe are saved, and this salvation is consummated by the endorsement of the message due to a New Birth in the heart, mind and soul of the elect believer. For ONLY they of which God by grace alone has quickened and made alive by his Spirit can believe and embrace the glorious message of the gospel of Christ.

One of the last commands our Lord Jesus gave to the apostle Peter was, "if you love me, FEED MY SHEEP." Nowhere can you find the command to go and MAKE SHEEP! The New Testament church is to FEED SHEEP by the preaching and teaching of the word of God and to be used to equip the saints for the work of the ministry in the Church. And from this Church that Christ is building will be the witness that he has called it to be. For all that have been made to believe upon the Lord Jesus Christ "shall be witnesses unto me" (Acts 1:8). Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them and they FOLLOW me" (John 10:27).

In Conclusion, this article may be offensive to some, yet I exhort you to search the scriptures to see if these things be so, regarding the "preaching of the Gospel" I am persuaded that God will direct the steps of his people to minister to them that are chosen and shall be MADE able to receive the message and testimony of the Christian as we walk in this present world. Being sensitive that we should trust our Lord Jesus to lead us to those whose hearts are prepared as was Lydia's in the book of Acts to receive our message. For zeal without wisdom attempting to fulfill the disciples "Great Commission", often ends up with many "Pearl's being thrown before swine" which are unable to receive anything we have to say.

*Jesus said, "I have come to SEEK and to SAVE (not try to) them which are lost".
"Thou shalt call his name JESUS; for he SHALL (not try) save his people from
their sins" (Matthew 1:21).*

*Regretfully, many evangelicals are attempting to do the work of the Holy Spirit.
Man CANNOT do what God can ONLY perform in the heart of the sinner. Many are
attempting to train members to be "soul saver's" which ONLY God by his Spirit can
accomplish. To testify of an experience of saving grace is one thing, but to think that by
doing so, a soul will be persuaded to be saved is erroneous. For some shall sow, others
water, but GOD SHALL ADD THE INCREASE.*

*When the local church becomes a "soul saving mill" instead of a green pasture to which
God's sheep are being fed, it has lost its main purpose and shall become and
"entertainment and amusement center" falling from its first love; sadly this is
the result of most assemblies that call themselves Baptists.*

*God our Father has given gifts to his Church for the perfecting (maturing) of the saints,
for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ
(Eph.4:11-12).*

*Christ Church is becoming mature, it is being prepared for the work of the ministry
through the gifts of the brethren, and it shall edify the saints which make up the body,
of which Christ alone is preparing for his beautiful Bride to be taken upon his soon
return. Praise be to the Bridegroom of whom has a bride that is being made without
spot nor wrinkle, ALL a work of sovereign, divine, and free grace.*

*"If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled and be not moved away from the hope
of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which WAS preached to every creature which
is under heaven; whereof, I Paul am made a minister" (Colo. 1:23).*

*"But I say, have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went unto ALL the earth, and
their words unto the ends of the world" (Romans 10:18).*

*The great commission given to the disciples, as our Lord commanded, had been fulfilled
as the Gentile world was exposed to the salvation of our God and Saviour
Jesus Christ. As He continues to save sinners by the operation of his Holy Spirit and
then causes the GOSPEL to be "a joyful sound in the ears of them that have been made
to believe it." For salvation is of the LORD, by grace and grace alone.*

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