

The Great Commission - Message #4

Sept. 30, 2007 (AM) - Pastor Ronnie Wolfe

PROSPECT OF THE COMMISSION

Introduction

Our commission has prospect. The Lord did not give this commission for no reason, but he gave it a prospect. He engages his churches to be faithful to carrying out this commission so that his Gospel will go out. We are a church of the Lord Jesus that needs to be faithful in this commission.

I. THE EXTENT OF THE PROSPECT

A. The Text:

1. Mark 16:15 *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*
- 2.

B. The World

1. The field is the world
 - a. Other Scriptures
 - (1) Matt 5:14 *Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.*
 - (2) Matt 24:14 *And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.*
 - (3) John 17:6 *I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.*

C. The Parable

1. See Matt. 13:36-43
2. Two kinds of people in the world
 - a. The good seed – Children of the kingdom, which shall shine forth in the kingdom of God the Father when this world is ended.
 - b. The tares – Children of the devil, who shall be cast into a furnace of fire where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.
 - c. This parable ends with the words, “Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.”
 - d. This is why we need to preach the Gospel.

II. THE PROMISE OF THE PROSPECT

A. Promise Of A People

1. Acts 18:10 *For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.*
2. If we preach the Gospel, they will come. - John 6:37 *All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.*

3. But they will not come without the preaching of the Gospel – Ro 10:17 *So then faith [cometh] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*
- B. Promise To Save Some
1. John 4:42 *And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard [him] ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.*
 2. Jesus is the Savior of the world. He saves people out of the world, and we are to preach to the entire world. He does not save everyone in the world (that is ridiculous), but he saves people out of the entire world.
 3. We have this promise, that he will save some. Paul says in 1 Cor. 9:22 *To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all [men], that I might by all means save some.*
- C. Promise of Perpetuity
1. Matt 16:18 *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*
 2. Matt 28:20 *Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, [even] unto the end of the world. Amen.*
 3. Heb 13:5 *[Let your] conversation [be] without covetousness; [and be] content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*
 4. Luke 18:8 *I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?*
 - a. Here he warns us about our own faith, that it should be tested from time to time, else there may be no faith on the earth when Jesus comes.
 - b. Let us test our faith by being a good witness of God's grace.

III. FRUIT OF THE PROSPECT

- A. Membership In The Local Church
1. We will speak of this more specifically in another message, but we must remember that one reason that we witness of the saving grace of God is so that people will come into the true church of the Lord Jesus Christ, a local assembly, to worship and serve the Lord in that assembly.
- B. Fellowship With God's People
1. Acts 2:42 *And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*
 2. 2 Cor 6:14 *Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?*
 3. 1 John 1:3 *That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship [is] with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.*
 4. 1 John 1:7 *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*
- C. Love One For The Other
1. John 15:12 *This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.*

2. *1 Peter 1:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, [see that ye] love one another with a pure heart fervently:*

Conclusion

So we have a commission, and that commission has prospect. We are not on our own in this effort. God is with us. Just as he went before Moses into Egypt, so he will go before us in the world to reprove the world of sin -- John 16:8 *And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:*

Illustration: <http://www.mercystreet.com/witness.html>

How My Witness Began in the Streets

When my witness began in the streets, I first thought about what I would need. I said to myself that I will need to study the scriptures used in witnessing and obtain materials to hand out. I began to prepare and made a tract for my church. Soon, I found myself standing on a sidewalk on the main street of my small town. I was excited to see that in less than an hour three people had rededicated their lives and one young man was saved. It seemed that each time that I went to the same sidewalk, people were getting saved there. In a few weeks, there were over 10 people saved on that small street corner. Soon my journey took me to the next block to visit people in their homes. As I began to knock on doors, I was once again excited to see people get saved. In a few weeks, I began to lead teams out to go door to door and to the streets of my city. Many were getting saved every time we went out. Although I had just started a few weeks prior on a street corner, now I was leading a group of nearly 30 youth from my church to the streets. The Holy Spirit is a wonderful teacher.

We can do the same thing, and God will bless.