

Missions

Matt 28: 16-20 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 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.

By the term “missions,” we mean the preaching of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to every creature. The Lord said this was to be done by “going.” Actually, the literal translation may be rendered “as you are going,” so it is taken for granted that they would be going.

Some believe that this command ceased with the apostles, so it is not incumbent upon us to carry the gospel to every creature. This does not seem to us to be reasonable, if for no other reason than that the record of missions in the New Testament contradicts such a notion. Paul, Barnabus, Timothy, Titus, Silas, and Phillip would be witnesses against such an interpretation. I would like to take a few moments to present what we believe about missions.

First of all, missions is to be accomplished through the proper authority. Jesus said “All power (authority) is given to me – go ye therefore.” So we go because Jesus has the authority. He gave it to these apostles. He had placed these apostles in the church:

I Cor 12:28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles,

The apostles carried out their God-given ministry through the local church, and we believe that is the way God established that it should be done. Christ loved the church and gave himself for the church (Eph 5:25). He placed apostles, prophets, and other gifts in the church (I Cor 12:28). And He sent missionaries out of local churches:

Acts 13: 1-4 Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and

laid [their] hands on them, they sent [them] away. So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.

There were no “loose canons” in God’s missionary army. They all were sent by proper authority to do the work to which the Holy Ghost called them.

From time to time, they would return to the sending church and let the folks at those churches know how God had blessed their efforts.

Acts 14: 26-28 And thence sailed to Antioch, from whence they had been recommended to the grace of God for the work which they fulfilled. And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles. And there they abode long time with the disciples.

Secondly, support for missions is the responsibility of the church and church members. No mission boards are found in scripture. There is no organization commissioned by the Lord to rob the church of its rightful place. If mission work is the work of the church, and missionaries are church members, then the organizational responsibilities fall to the churches as well.

I Cor 16: 1-3 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first [day] of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as [God] hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come. And when I come, whomsoever ye shall approve by [your] letters, them will I send to bring your liberality unto Jerusalem.

II Cor 8: 1-4 Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. For to [their] power, I bear record, yea, and beyond [their] power [they were] willing of themselves; Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and [take upon us] the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

II Cor 8: 18-19 And we have sent with him the brother, whose praise [is] in the gospel throughout all the churches; And not [that] only, but who was also chosen of the churches to travel with us with this grace, which is administered by us to the glory of the same Lord, and [declaration of] your ready mind:

Thirdly, we were to go into all the world. That’s means to our next door neighbor, our fellow worker, and our unknown fellow man on the other side

of the world. We do that by preaching the gospel at home, and by supporting missionaries sent out by local churches to do the work to which the Lord has called them. We believe that God's plan is better than man's plan.

II Tim 2:5 And if a man also strive for masteries, [yet] is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.

Lastly, our job is not done when we see people saved. We are to teach them all things. I find it interesting that the large evangelistic organizations rent huge stadiums and put on fantastic shows, but then leave town and tell all their "converts" to go find a church to attend. The Lord knew nothing of such a plan. His command was to teach them to observe all things. All babes need teaching, and the Lord would have us to teach.

In doing all these things, we will become true soul-winners.

God Bless,
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