

# PLEASANT VIEW PROCLAIMER

December 18, 2022

## The Mission of the Church - Lesson 13: Evangelism

As we near the end of our series on *The Mission of the Church*, we move to looking at God's expectations regarding **Evangelism**. However, before we dig into the specifics of our responsibility in this area, let's first look at two fundamental principles which amplify the need for the church to make evangelism a priority:

**C**\_\_\_\_\_ - The first of these fundamental principles is the fact that all who have not accepted Christ are eternally lost (**Mk 16:16**). Paul told the Christians at Rome that beginning with Adam's sin, "death spread to all men, because all sinned..." (**Rom 5:12**). In the same letter, Paul had earlier said that "all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin..." (**Rom 3:9**) and that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..." (**Rom 3:23**). Paul also told the Christians at Ephesus that, "you were dead in your trespasses and sins..." (**Eph 2:1**). Again, this means that all who are not ultimately led to Christ will die in their sins and be lost.

**C**\_\_\_\_\_ - Becoming a follower of Christ is not something anyone accidentally stumbles into (**Rom 10:14-17**). Each of us must learn why we need Him and how to follow Him. We do this through His truth. This leads us to the second fundamental principle, which is that God has designated His church to be the ones who uphold this truth here on earth (**1 Tim 3:14-15**). God has entrusted us with His truth, and we are to be the keepers of this revealed Gospel (**Rom 1:16-17**).

**C**\_\_\_\_\_ - So, with these two principles in mind that (1) All without the Gospel are lost, and that (2) The church is to be the champion of the Gospel here on earth, what does God expect from His church? Let's start answering this by looking at one of the last things that Jesus said to His apostles before ascending into heaven:

### **Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)**

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

The **LORD**  
Himself goes before you  
and will be with you  
HE WILL **NEVER**  
leave you nor forsake you  
**DO NOT** be AFRAID  
**DO NOT** be DISCOURAGED  
... Deuteronomy 31:8 ...

*"Now may the Lord of peace  
Himself give you peace  
always in every way. The  
Lord be with you all."*

Check us out on  
facebook as  
pleasantviewcoc for  
upcoming sermon and  
bible class topics

*December 25 schedule:*

- No Sunday school
  - Regular service @  
10:30 am
  - No evening service
- We encourage you  
to spend time as a  
family in devotion to  
God*

This is referred to as “The Great Commission,” and we find other records of these instructions in **Mk 16:15-16**, **Lk 24:44-48**, and **Acts 1:6-8**. In these words, Jesus is telling the apostles that their number one priority is spreading the Gospel to all people. Why would this be the case? Again, because all without Christ are eternally lost!

**C** \_\_\_\_\_ - While we know that only the 11 apostles directly heard the words above, we can see from Acts and the epistles that the church was involved in carrying out this mandate starting with the work of the apostles (**Eph 2:19-22**). Consider the following passages:

**Acts 5:42** - The apostles were active in teaching and preaching “every day”

**Acts 8:1-5** - After the execution of Stephen, Christians were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. Those who were scattered did not include the apostles, yet the scattered “went about preaching the word.”

**Acts 13:1-3** - The church in Antioch of Syria sent Paul and Barnabas into the mission field to reach new areas for Christ.

**Acts 19:8-10** - Paul was teaching in Ephesus for over two years, and through this teaching “all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord...” This would have only been possible if those who had been taught by Paul then became teachers and spread the word throughout the province.

**2 Tim 2:1-2** - Paul tells Timothy, “...what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.”

While this is not an exhaustive list, we see from these verses how the apostles went about fulfilling “The Great Commission.” They taught Christ every day, and in turn those who were taught by the apostles (i.e., the church) were active in teaching Christ to others. This is a cycle that continues to this day. So, because we are keepers of the truth, it is our responsibility to continue working on fulfilling the commission of Christ in our community and in the rest of the world.

## PRAYER LIST

- **Keith Walker** is suffering with some heart issues
- **Diane Singleton** has requested prayers
- **Burt & Peggy Wilkerson** are recuperating at home
- **Catherine Pennington** will have hernia surgery January 17th
- **Camille Brosky**, a family friend of the Agees, is in rehab recovering from a stroke
- **Judy Cook** is doing well at home
- Elizabeth’s grandmother **Carol Saling** has cancer
- **Maria Hunter Harrington** has breast cancer
- **Forshia Pennington** has cancer.
- **Donna Rawls Head** is in hospice care
- Continue to pray for: **Chelsea Roaden**, those in **Ukraine**; the **Brown family**, **Kim Waller**, **Kristine Garrett**, the **Krantz family**, **John Hayes**, **Nick Phifer**, **Isabel Johnson**, and **Jim Sims**

## SERVING TODAY (December 18, 2022)

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Read:** M. Reed  
**Prayer:** J. Gupton

### WORSHIP

**Read:** R. Mayo  
**Wait On Table:** D. Billingsley  
**Serve:** C. Baker, D. Demonbreun  
**Prayer:** J. Baker