

Gospel: Go and Spell- Matthew 28:19-20/Mark 16:15-18

Quite often known as the “Great Commission”, the Gospel defines the responsibility of the church which has been purchased by his own precious blood. The church in Greek, “*ecclesia*,” meaning called out, is not an organization, club or a social gathering but a living organism, which is composed of all those who have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ. Empowered and infused with power from on high, the church is marching forward toward its God ordained destiny. As the church marches to the beat of its commander in chief we cannot and should not dare forget our responsibility and obligations.

“Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe. In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well (Mark 16:15-18).”

“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 (Matthew 28:19-20).”

This is a task that we need to accept without delay or debate: to reach the whole world with the whole word, without diluting the gospel in any form or manner. We dare not cut corners when we proclaim this good news, lest lives slip into eternity without Christ. Every believer should comprehend and understand the sense of urgency and Go.

Jesus made it clear that we need to “Go”. The church is commanded to go, not to be dormant or stagnant but to always be on the move, which

denotes ongoing action on the part of the church to fulfill its goal. It is not restricted or confined to one particular place; we are commanded to “Go”. Go into your world: wherever the sphere of your activity is; it may be the world of business, education, or anywhere you go on a daily basis to make a living. Ideally, there should be a sense of responsibility in every believer to share the good news with all those we come in contact with. Jesus made it clear that the gospel is for the whole world, not to an exclusive group of people. One of the main verbs or action words that we find in the commission is to teach, which expresses the command “Go make disciples”. Jesus made it very clear as to who should be disciplined. We are commanded to make disciples of all nations and that objective is achieved by taking part in evangelizing the whole world.

Subsequent to making disciples we are to “baptize them”. The very fact that Jesus includes Baptism in the Great Commission shows us the importance of this ordinance. What is Baptism? The word Baptism is derived from the Greek word “*baptizo*”, which means to dunk, dip or immerse. Baptism is an outward expression of an inward change; a public proclamation of a private, personal decision made for Christ. Besides that, Apostle Paul in Romans 6: 3-6 says that baptism is identifying ourselves with the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus considered baptism to be so important that he himself was baptized. If Jesus our role model submit to baptism, we have no excuse but to submit to his command.

The command of the Master does not end with baptism. Verse 20 mandates that the church needs to strengthen the disciples by teaching them the doctrines of Christ. “....teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you”. Wow! Such a tremendous responsibility on our shoulders! It is often seen that the church is so enthusiastic in reaching out with the good news getting people to receive the Lord, and even leading them to obey the Lord in water Baptism. But often we fall short of fulfilling all the Lord has commanded us to do. When we neglect to fulfill everything the Lord has commanded, the result could

be tragic- the outcome is shallow Christianity and immature believers. Failure to teach new believers faithfully and consistently leaves a false impression that everything required of the Lord has been fulfilled.

Remember Jesus said reach out to “All nations” teaching them to obey “everything”. He is with us “always”. Shall we as a church show all diligence in obeying the “Great Commission” and fulfilling the great task placed upon our lives?