

Living with a Purpose
Evangelize, Educate, Equip
Go, Teach, Baptize
Sunday, August 22nd, 2010
By Tom Hanson

Intro: We, as Christians, have been given a job to do. It is a job that will occupy us for the rest of our lives. It is a task that Jesus gave to us through His disciples on that beautiful day two thousand years ago before He ascended into Heaven. It is the commandment that kept the early church fully involved and thriving throughout the Book of Acts. It has been called “The Great Commission.” The Great Commandment. But, truthfully, it could just as well be called the “The Forgotten Commission.” The Forgotten Commandment. Jesus left us a purpose, not just a church motto.

I. Evangelize – Go:

Matthew 28: 18-20 ...Go ye therefore, and teach all nations...

Jesus told us, through His disciples, to go and teach and baptize. Very simple instructions. The Bible tells us that we are not be corrupted from the simplicity of Christ.

2Corinthians 11:3 ...corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

An evangelist is “a preacher of the Gospel.” It is not necessarily a traveler of great distances to preach the Gospel, although some people do just that and rightly so. But Jesus told us to go and teach and in another place go and preach the gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15). Evangelize. There are many creatures - people – (NOTE: The word creature really means, ‘created being.’) we come across every day. We can see that the fields are white to harvest, but you are the only laborer in the harvest field of your life, so we must not overlook those around us. We don’t have to go half way around the world to evangelize the Gospel of Christ. Everywhere we go has the potential of saving a soul. God told Moses that he was standing on holy ground.

Exodus 3:5 ...the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.

When we put on Christ, everywhere we go is holy ground – we take off our shoes, spiritually speaking, and we have our feet shod in the preparation of the Gospel of peace. Where we walk is now holy ground.

Ephesians 6:15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Preach - Evangelize

2 Timothy 4:1 ...Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season...

II. Educate – Teach

Who is your teacher? Paul's teacher was a man named Gamaliel.

Acts 22:3 ...brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel...

But Paul at this time in his testimony did not know the Perfect One and therefore did not know the The Truth, The Whole Truth and nothing but The Truth. But, in time he would come to know Jesus and would become the greatest evangelist not only in terms of distance traveled but in preaching of the Gospel.

Are you teaching God's curriculum? There will be a test – and it will be pass/fail. And your name is on it. Not the names of the people that you are sharing with. No, they have their test, too, but this test has only your name on it. You will get an eternal grade and eternal comments: "Well done." Or: "Depart from me." So, every man and woman needs to be apt to teach.

2Timothy 2:24 ...be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,

We teach more than the accuracy and precision of The Word of God, but through our living examples.

1Timothy 4:12-16 ...be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation...

III. Equip – Baptize –

Believing and being baptized allows us to put on Christ – to be complete in Him.

Colossians 2:10 And ye are complete in him...

Now we are equipped in God's Spirit and Truth and can be led by God to do His will. We equip those around in Christ through the pastorship and leadership that God has provided us so generously with and in this ministry through fellowship, Bible studies, exhortation, and just a good attitude to do the work of God that is before us. All of this takes patience and determination, but it is possible in God as Jesus said:

*Matthew 19:26 ...**With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.***

Remember: Jesus gave us a job to do. Go, teach, and baptize. Evangelize, educate, and equip.