

# **GOD'S PURPOSE FOR THE CHURCH AND THE MISSIONARY**

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## **1. The Great Commission by the Lord Jesus Christ to the Church in New Testament**

The great commission is the connective foundation of the church expansion. It is the church orientation of Christ. It is lifted out because of its singularity as a command of the Lord Jesus Christ. The great commission appears in all four Gospels and in the book of Acts. Christ's command to His disciples to go to the whole nations that is a comprehensive task that aim at developing a worldwide civilization and culture. The aim of this brief article is to examine the great commission in order to expose some common usages of it and to determine its real meaning and significance for the Church and the missionary.

The imperatives of the great commission are based on the fact that Jesus Christ has all authority. Christ's humiliation consists of laying aside the divine majesty, assuming a human nature, and coming in the form of a servant and subjecting himself to the demands and curse of the law to redeem, who are under the bondages of evil in Gal 4:4,5.

Christ's resurrection is the new beginning, the foundation of the regeneration of the world. The total victory that Jesus Christ accomplished on the cross is to be progressively brought to all nations. His all authority over all nations demands believers to preach about His saving Grace over all men of this world. The Bible teaches that all Christians have a duty to be salt and light to the surrounding cultures (Mt 5:13) and that Christians should witness to their neighbors (Acts 18:26) the interpretation which states that the great commission is given to the apostles until the end of this ages.

The book of Acts reveals that the apostles took Jesus command to teach seriously. The Church is to go into every nation and preach the gospel. The goal of the great commission is that each one in the world should listen about the Lord Jesus Christ and accept Him as their only savior and God. Immediately before his ascension, Christ said to his disciples "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). After the

ascended of Jesus Christ, He pours out the Holy Spirit upon the church. Gentry Writes; “Believers are adequately empowered for the task of world evangelism and the Christian culture transforming labor that follows evangelism’s trail base on Luke 24:49.” Jesus said, “I am with you always” the Lord of glory will be with the church and the missionaries to the end of the world in carrying the Gospel. He will be with the church until the task that he has commanded is completed. This proves that the great commission applies to the church until the second coming of Christ. The great commission appears in all four Gospel and in the book of Acts:

- I. Mark 16:15-18, Evangelistic Commission: Mark emphasized the need to communicate the gospel to every individual on the earth, and with the theological thrust of faith for salvation. The concern is that all men might have the opportunity for faith and new life through the salvation which Jesus Christ had come to offer. He that believes Him and baptized shall be saved and will follow them with signs of speaking in new tongues.
- II. Matthew 28:18-20, Church planting Commission: Jesus stressed the making of disciples in this command. An ongoing ministry is indicated with baptism and teaching as part of a process of discipline. Baptism is usually an act of obedience of commitment to Christ before others. Teaching can be done one by one, but the normal is more than one together regularly for the systematic teaching of God’s word. This will strengthen the Church spiritually.
- III. Luke 24:44-49, Teaching commission: Luke ends the Gospel with incidents that emphasize the teaching of the whole scripture. Luke emphasize the Bible and teaching in his rending of the great commission.
- IV. John 20:19-23, Sending Commission: To be sent into the world by Jesus Christ is the highest dignity that bestowed on man by taking the example of His mission into this world. Here the emphasis on “sending in to the world” Jesus commissioned his disciple as his representative and sent them into the world as his agents of salvation.
- V. Acts 1:8, Global Commission: Jesus gave a breath taking global sweep to the task before the apostles. His disciples were to have an apostolic ministry locally in Jerusalem, nationally in all Judea to ethnic minorities in their land like the despised Samaritans as well as to other lands, continents to the end of the earth.

The great commission covers a wide range of ministries from pioneer work to Church development, teaching, training and they also cover every part of the world. All this the great commission are applied still in today Churches. So every members of the Church should have the spirit of carry the great commission from Jesus Christ to every part of the world by any means example by supporting the missionary, donating some amount of money to assist the mission work of the Church, and one can even volunteer if they feel the call from God, and those who are unable to do that they can support with their regular prayers. By doing all those things by the Church members of the United Pentecostal Church it will lead to flourish the mission work and bring the glorious harvest.

## **2. The Biblical meaning and the model of Missionary**

- I. Missionary comes from the Latin word “*missio*” from “*mitto*” which means “to send or I send.” The Greek word is “*apostello*.” (The noun form of missionary is not in the Bible, but apostle meaning “the one send”).
- II. Missionary is someone sent with a commission from a higher authority. (John 20:2) According to scripture, every Christian has a part in missions. Every Christian is to go or send for the Gospel. (Matt 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; John 15:16; 20:21; Rom 10:14-17)
- III. Missionary is people sent by God to bring His Word and power of Salvation into the world. Sending implies going. (Rom 10:15)
- IV. Sent means the sender remains behind and the one who is sent goes to accomplish the same work that the sender would do if he went.

Mission is the heart of God reaching out to the lost world and the grace of God being manifest in the redemption of man. It is evangelization of the unsaved and Christianization of the society. In Christian mission God is foremost the subject of missions and not simply the object. He is the gracious Actor, merciful initiator, and sustaining presence. Mission is of Him, by Him and unto Him. He is its source, dynamic, and end. The mission of God is a mission of imparting his holiness to sinful creatures. Mission is originated from the heart of God itself and consequently the necessity of the centrality of mission in the character of the entire church. The church mission has its origin and source in God. Therefore, mission is God given task to a particular people own group of people or organization as Church to accomplish for the extension

of His Kingdom. Mission has the goal of saving people from perishing by offering them the salvation of God expressed in the words of eternal life. This salvation, however, must be appropriated by faith in Christ Jesus. Missionary is serving the Lord to un-reached people as the Lord Jesus Christ commanded in the great commission. The Acts of the Apostles is the historical account of the initiation of this process. Repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations (Luke 24:47), and baptized everyone in the name of Jesus Christ...and received the gift of the Holy Ghost (Acts 2:38), beginning in Jerusalem to utter most part of the world. Base on the above statements the missionary should emphasized in the mission toil.

A Christian missionary is an ambassador of Christ. Each one must be yielded to the Lord, loving Him with all the heart, soul, mind, and strength. Specifically, a missionary is one whom God sends through the support of the Church to the unreached. All Christians, however, are called to be missionaries of the Gospel. The Lord works through them to rescue the lost. What greater calls can one answer? Probably the most important qualification for a missionary to have is the ability to hear from God. Direction and strategies must be Divine. He must be able to operate from an unction and not emotion. Jesus Christ become the model for the missionaries for leaving His throne of Comfort Zone and came into this world where there is full of hatred, sorrows, pain, troubles, rejection and curse etc. He faces it and overcome it and accomplished His remarkable mission to seek and save that was lost.

### **3. The Essential of Christian missionary to reach, un-reached people**

Christian missionaries should go in obedience to God's call not because of the job. As we know that God called the apostle Paul, by saying "to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles— to whom I am sending you to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me" (Acts 26:16-18). So every Christian missionary should remember what Christ has enlightened to Apostle Paul. And Every Christian must carry the burden for the lost soul, here it remind us that, "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach,

except there be sent? As it is written how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring good tidings (Romans 10:14,15). It is necessary for the Church to send the missionaries to save the lost souls otherwise they will perish in their sin.

Every missionary should keep in mind that, Jesus assured that missionaries will face surrender and suffering life. As they leave their friends behind, experience new culture shock and rejection (Matthew 10:16-31). But instead of falling into self-pity or pride, they should learn to delight in serving God. Rather than being a burden, obeying His call brings joy and reward in heaven. Therefore, every Christian missionary should keep in mind that they serve not out of duty but love.

A Christian missionary should delight in spreading the good news of Christ to the lost just as Paul did: "Now when I came to Troas for the gospel of Christ and when a door was opened for me in the Lord . . . thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. For now we are a fragrance of Christ mission among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; to the one we are the aroma to death leading to death, and to the other the aroma from life leading to life. And who is adequate for these things? For we are not like many, peddling the word of God, but as from sincerity and as from God, we speak in Christ in the sight of God" (2 Corinthians 2:12-17). Rather than seeking personal gain while witnessing, Christian missionaries should witness and labor to bring glory and honor to Christ's righteous life, sacrificial death, and absolute authority.

The United Pentecostal Church International stands for the Lord as the truth followers of Jesus Christ. To carry out His victorious mission the Churches must be involved actively in sending missionaries to different parts of the world where the gospel has never reached. In order to fulfill completely the great commission through individual, every one of the church members should take part in one way or the other for carrying out the mission program by the Church for the Glory and extension of God's Kingdom under the umbrella of the General Mission Department.