

Insight for the Issues

Prov. 4:23

NEXT STEPS

“The Issue of Evangelism”

Prov. 4:23 **Keep thy heart** with all diligence; for **out of it are the issues of life.**

ALL THE TIME.....EVERYWHERE

The last two weeks we have considered a vital issue for churches and members – evangelism. We began by looking at the “great commission” found in Acts 1:8:

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and **ye shall be witnesses unto me both** in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, **and** unto the uttermost part of the earth.

I. THE CAPABILITY FOR THE MISSION

- A. Our Dependence
- B. Our Duty
- C. Our Direction



II. THE COMMITMENT TO THE MISSION

A. The Decision

B. The Discipline

1. Pray

2. Plan

3. Participate

4. Perceive

5. Present

6. Pray

7. Praise

C. The Delight

The proper understanding of the “Great Commission” must begin with the doctrine of Ecclesiology, or the study of “church.” An important issue to understand is that the “Great Commission” was given to the first church which Jesus started, and, consequently, to His churches throughout history. From a practical and simple perspective, we will consider three questions regarding a “church:”

1. What is a church?

A church is a local, visible assembly of Scripturally baptized believers, covenanted together in love to meet regularly under the authority of the Word of God, to glorify Christ according to His will, to represent Him in every community as a visible image of the Gospel, ultimately for His glory, both in the present and at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

2. What does a church do?

A church assembles together, learns the Word of God together, worships together via psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, lovingly cares for each other, even through the practice church discipline, and endeavors to function together in unity for the glory of God.

3. What is the mission of a church?

The mission of the church is to implement God's Scriptural mandate to preach the Gospel to every creature around the world for the purpose of making disciples for His glory.

This evening we will consider...

III. THE CULMINATION OF THE MISSION

- ❖ Individually as a believer, and collectively as a congregation, the goal of evangelism should be the culmination in eternity.

culminate

to reach the highest point, summit, or highest development (usually followed by *in*).

to end or arrive at

a final stage (usually followed by *in*): *The argument culminated in a fistfight.*

to rise to or form an apex; terminate (usually followed by *in*):

<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/culminate>

A. The Finite Faithfulness

Acts 20:24 But none of these things move me, **neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.**

❖ An excellent example of “finite faithfulness” is the life of the Apostle Paul:

2 Tim. 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith:

❖ The testimony at the end of Paul's life reflects the focus throughout his lifetime:

Acts 20:17 And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church.

18 And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons,

19 Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:

20 And how I kept back nothing that was profitable *unto you*, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house,

21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

22 And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there:

23 Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me.

24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

Principles

1. The Source of Authority, 20:17 – “...the church.”

2. The Spiritual Assessment, 20:18-24

a. Consistency – v. 18 “...from the first day...with you at all seasons,”

b. Conscientiousness – v. 19 “Serving the Lord with all humility of mind...many tears...temptations...”

c. Comprehensive – vs. 20-21a “...I kept back nothing...showed you...taught you...(21a) Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks...”

d. Centered – v. 21b “...repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”

e. Composed – v. 22 “And now, behold I go bound...not knowing the things that shall befall me there:”

f. Confidence – v. 23 “Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city...”

g. Commitment – v. 24 “But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, **so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.**”

❖ Our finite limitations are compassed about with “eternal” opportunities of witnessing that the Lord will provide to His children who are willing to represent Him on this earth:

Acts 1:8b “...and **ye shall be witnesses unto me...**”

Ph. 1:6 **That the communication of thy faith may become effectual** by the acknowledging of every good thing **which is in you in Christ Jesus.**

❖ The ultimate culmination for every one that is born-again = eternal life!

Jn. 10:28a “And **I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish...**”

Rom. 6:23 For the wages of sin *is* death; but **the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

B. The Fathomless Fellowship

Jn. 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were* not so, I would have told you. **I go to prepare a place for you.**

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that **where I am, there ye may be also.**

Rom. 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time **are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.**

2 Cor. 4:16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward *man* is renewed day by day.

17 **For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;**

18 **While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.**

Conclusion

2 Tim. 2:20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.

21 **If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, *and* prepared unto every good work.**

22 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.