

THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

(Matthew 28:18-20)

1. What do we do?

- a. In order to answer this question, we need to see what the Head of the church did.
- b. Before He ever set foot on earth, it was told what He would come to do.
 - i. He was to be named Jesus, which means “He who saves” (Luke 1:31-32; Matthew 1:21).
 - ii. Zacharias said that his son, John the Immerser, would point the way to Him who would bring salvation and light to those who are in darkness (Luke 1:76-79).
- c. When Jesus was born into the world, we are told what He would do.
 - i. Luke 2:10-11.
 - ii. Luke 2:30, 38.
- d. When Jesus began to preach, we are told what He was doing.
 - i. John 1:29.
 - ii. Luke 4:43
- e. The primary aim of Jesus was to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10).
- f. Since we are part of Christ’s body, the church, we have to do what the Head of the body intends to be done.

2. How do we do it?

- a. Since what we do is seek and save the lost, how do we go about it?
- b. The simple answer to this is found in Mark 16:15 – go.
- c. We have an example in Acts 5:20 which tells us to go and stand and speak.
- d. The book of Acts is full of examples of this.
 - i. Peter and John went to where the Jews were (Acts 3).
 - ii. Philip went to where the Samaritans were (Acts 8).
 - iii. Philip went to where one man was (Acts 8).
 - iv. Peter went to where one family was (Acts 10).
- e. These are just a few.
- f. (Talk about Mel Futtrell’s sermon).
- g. We are going to make mistakes, but we must never make the mistake of doing nothing.

3. For whom do we do it?

- a. Remember the mission statement of AMEREN?
 - i. In it, there were two groups for whom they work the way they do.
 - ii. There were the stockholders, in order to make them money.
 - iii. There were the customers who paid the money.
- b. In some ways, that is true for the Christian.
- c. We do what we do for God.

- i. God wants all men to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4).
 - ii. God chose preaching to spread the saving message (1 Corinthians 1:21).
 - iii. You and I are to the will of God (1 John 2:17).
 - iv. John 14:15.
 - d. We do what we do for the lost.
 - i. The 2nd greatest command is to love our neighbors as ourselves.
 - ii. If we truly love our neighbors, we won't want them to be lost.
 - e. Seeking and saving the lost is done for God and also for the lost.
 - 4. What value are we bringing?**
 - a. CVS said that it wanted to be the easiest pharmacy to use.
 - b. Bristol-Meyers Squibb wants to develop medicines to fight disease.
 - c. Those companies are bringing a valuable commodity to the marketplace.
 - d. What value does the church bring?
 - i. We bring the saving message of the gospel.
 - ii. We bring stronger families.
 - iii. We bring a place of safety.
 - iv. We bring help to the needy.
 - v. We bring education.
 - vi. We bring strength.
 - e. The value the church brings is inestimable.