

09-16-12

Series: The Great Commission

The Great Commission (2)

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Matthew 28:16-20

(Continuation from 09/09/12)

The Making Disciples of All Nations, Part 1

The **primary motive** of the church is to glorify God. Jesus even came into the world for that purpose and gave us an example. He came to show us the Father's glory. He came to reveal the glory of the Father, [John 1:14](#) says.

[John 1:14 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

“He was the express image, the radiance, the glory of God manifest,” says [Hebrews 1:3](#).

[Hebrews 1:3 \(NASB\)](#)

³ **And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,**

So, Christ came into the world with one motive, basically, and that was to glorify God. And that motive has been passed on to the church. We are to give God glory, that is our reason for being. As the French would say, that's our **Raison d'etre**, that's our reason to be...to glorify God in terms of a motive.

But what about a mission? What is the mission that flows out of that motive? Now the answer will become clear to us as we take a look at redemptive history. Listen very carefully because this is, as I say, the ultimate message in Matthew because it is the climactic one. When man fell in sin in the garden, because of man's fall, all of the human race was condemned to death in hell. The whole human race died, in a sense, in the sin of Adam. But immediately, God set out to redeem man back to Himself out of gracious love.

And if you remember the story, you will remember that when Adam fell in sin, and was very much aware of his sinfulness, and his alienation from God, he did not roam around the garden saying, “**God, where are You? God, where are You?**” It was God in [Genesis 3:9](#) who came into the garden and said, “**Adam, where are you?**”

[Genesis 3:9 \(NASB\)](#)

⁹ Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, Where are you?”

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And the intent of that is to let us know that it is God who initiates out of His own gracious love the saving work. Fallen and redeemed man, frankly, does not even seek after God, says Paul in [Romans chapter 3:10-12](#). It is God who is the seeker. It is God who took the initiative to call man back out of gracious love. And from the first call in [Genesis 3:9](#), “Adam, where are you?” to the last call in [Revelation 22:17](#), “**The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.**”

From the first invitation to the last invitation of Scripture and all in between, God is a God who longs to redeem fallen man to Himself. God has been and God continues and will continue to seek to redeem people and ultimately to redeem the whole fallen world for the purpose of giving Him glory. It glorifies God when sinners are saved. It glorifies God when the unredeemed and separated from Him are brought back by grace into fellowship and transformed and made into members of His family.

So important is this on God’s heart that it even tells us in Scripture that He was in the world, [2 Corinthians 5:19](#), reconciling the world to Himself. God became a man. God invaded human history. God came into our world to do this which was the desire of His heart. And why was it His desire? Because God’s supreme desire is to glorify Himself as the absolutely perfect God, He has an absolutely perfect right and an absolutely perfect reason to glorify Himself. The way in which He seeks to glorify Himself is to redeem sinful men. That is the single greatest act of holy God. That is why in [Ephesians 3:10](#), it says the angels are in awe of God in His saving work as they look at the church.

That is why Peter said in [1 Peter 1:12](#), “**This salvation angels desire to look into.**” Nothing glorifies God to the extent that the redeeming of a hell-bound, damned sinner does. And so, God desiring glory realized that the greatest glory given to Him by angels and men would come through the redemption of men set out to redeem man back. All men then become objects of Gods seeking love.