**The Greatest - Wk 2 – The Greatest Purpose**

**We are starting the New Year on the greatest principles in scripture.**

**Last week:**

**\*\* The Greatest Reason - We exist for the glory of God.**

**Created for the glory of God. Everything is to be for the glory of God.**

**Rom 11:36 - For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen**

**If you have ever wondered what the meaning of life is, it is this – to bring Glory to God.**

**\*\* The Greatest Command -**

**Over everything said in the Bible – this is the greatest command according to Jesus – the author of the Bible.**

**Mark 12:30Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ 31The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”**

**This is to be the desire of our life and everything in 2024. The motivation of our heart and will – to love God and love others.**

**Today another “greatest.” This great defines our pursuits and interests. Have you ever wondered what your purpose in life is?**

**Today’s great – gives us the purpose of every Christian alive.**

**After the resurrection – Jesus visited his disciples and others for 40 days. He taught them more about the kingdom and gave them instructions on what to do next.**

**(These are the final words of Jesus as recorded in the Gospel of Matthew) Matt 28:16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17 And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. (Referring to the amazement of him being alive and what to do.) 18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”**

**This is known as the Great Commission.**

**It is a command and a mission all in one.**

**There are variations of this are in every gospel:**

**Matt 4:19 When Jesus called disciples he said, “Come and I will make you fishers of men” (Talking in their language - you catch fish now - follow me and you will catch people. Lit – you’ll be “people who will draw in people”)**

**Mark 16:15 - He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. (Gospel = good news of Jesus!)**

**Luke 24:45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.**

**John 20:21 - 21 Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”**

**We are not merely saved for heaven’s sake and hell’s avoidance.**

**We are commissioned - unleashed with purpose to tell the world**

**This Great Commission - is the heart of God.**

**Every Believer's Mission – every believer’s purpose.**

**This is the purpose of every Christian.**

**Your purpose is not to accumulate wealth, build buildings, be famous, make art, be a great sing, or athlete. It is not to write books, be a speaker, teacher, scientist, or discover the cure for cancer. It is not to have a family or be a good mom or dad. Your purpose is not to make a difference by helping others. It is not about sustainable incomes, water wells, planting trees, or food distribution.**

**Mark 8:36 For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? 37 For what can a man give in return for his soul?**

**We tend to think that one of those is our purpose in life.**

**But happens when you can’t sing anymore, or be an athlete? What do you do when your mind is not as sharp? When your healthy and fame fades, or money is gone? What happens when your kids move out, or your spouse passes away.**

**\*\* These things were never meant to be our purpose – they are simply the platform for our purpose (more on this next week).**

**Let’s dissect our great mission. \*\*Mission impossible song:**

**This is our Mission Possible... Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”**

**Our Great Mission Possible: Understanding the mission**

**Matthew 28:18 Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.**

**1. This mission is a command - Not optional. This is coming from God!**

**Notice the all’s (4). “All authority, all nations, all I commanded you, always…” It is very definitive, authoritative, and absolute.**

**It’s not the platinum plus Christian package.**

**This is not optional – I am telling you this is the mission, and it is to be done this way.**

**19 Go therefore …**

**2. This mission is to be intentional - something to plan for and do.**

**When we leave our home – God Use me today. When people are coming over – God use me today. Planning and follow-up.**

**God = GO. Satan = Sat.**

**Intentional movement to our neighborhood and the world.**

**Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, (Daily missions) and in all Judea (Local missions) and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Global missions)**

**This is not a passive thing – it is intentional. By the HS power!**

**19 …make disciples… (followers of Jesus)**

**3. This mission is Gospel centered**

**The Gospel is by definition news – good life changing news!**

**This is evangelism – “sent with a message” one who brings good news! This is what we are all called to do.**

**To effectively fulfill and follow the greatest mission – to tell others good news – we must know what it is.**

**Deity – Death – Resurrection – for the forgiveness of Sin – which must be believed by faith. This is the Gospel. This is our message.**

**Jesus lived, died for our sins, was buried, rose again and coming back again for those who believe and follow him. The only way!**

**Jesus said Go and tell the world this news!**

**Paul - Romans 10:14-17 – How will they know unless they are told…**

**This good news is something that must be told!**

**It must be heard or read! We must take it to all the world!**

**Every Believers Mission: Mark 16:15 - He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach (tell) the good news to all creation. (Gospel = good news)**

**The gospel is not silent – it is not just loving people.**

**This is why we do outreach! It’s why we preach each week! Why we give invitations to know Jesus!**

**Is evangelism the same as discipleship? No, one who bows the knee to Jesus is a disciple. Whether you are a good disciple or a lazy disciple.**

**Are we all called to be evangelist then? No, we are not all evangelists, but we are all to evangelize. To share the good news.**

**\*\* Some have a spiritual gift for it, but we are all to do it.**

**Sidebar – How few believers ever share their faith is troublesome! This is too good to keep to ourselves! Christ followers - to ignore this mission is to live in sin & rebellion.**

**You want to be blessed according to God’s standards?**

**Romans 10:15 - And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"**

**A divine pedicure. But what if they don’t like me anymore?**

**Matt 5:11 “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.**

**\*\*This mission is good news centered**

**19 …make disciples… (followers of Jesus)**

**4. This mission is about multiplication**

* **What is a disciple of Jesus: Mathetes – one who follows, a student of, a learner (of Jesus). Simplified: One who hears the HS direction and obeys – follows.**
* **What is a disciple maker: one who helps others to hear what the HS is telling them and helps them to obey it – follow (walk).**

**We are to make disciples, not decisions - not converts or church goers.**

**We are not called to make religious followers and little versions of ourselves. Are you making pharisees – or followers?**

**\*\*\* You know what starts a move of God? Want to see God multiply our church? When we as individuals live and share the gospel - when we make disciples – we multiply.**

**I can multiply just so many – we are all to multiply.**

* **BTW – Acts 1:8 "you will be my witnesses" Are you a witness? Really? Mar-toos / martyrs - proven genuine testimony thru death. Simply - our mission is wonderful, but will be difficult.**

**19 …of all nations…**

**5. This mission is for all people - No one excluded. The entire world.**

**White, black, brown, all ethnicities, age, economics, or background.**

**Racism had always been and will continue to be a sin.**

**19 …baptizing them…**

**6. This mission is not private - Our faith is not personal, but public.**

**We walk it out in Jesus before others. No secret followers.**

**Baptism is a picture of the cross, burial, resurrection. When we are baptized, we are telling others that we believe it.**

**We are embracing the glorious, good news of Jesus by faith!!**

**We saying we are dying to self and living a new live in Christ.**

**Mark 16:16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. (This is promise and a warning)**

**Salvation is by faith! (Eph 2:8-9) This is not suggesting that we are saved by Baptism. Emphasis is on “Believes” – notice who is condemned… the one who does not believe.**

**- Jesus is our great salvation by faith, and we are commanded to be baptized.**

**Baptism is the follow through act of faith – the, “I am in!”**

**It is an act of obedience to Jesus.**

* + **BTW if you have not been baptized, it is time!!**

**19 …in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,**

**This speaks directly to the trinitarian doctrine of God.**

**7. This mission emphasizes doctrine**

**What we believe matters. There are true & false. Hold tight essentials.**

**Walking with God is not just a matter of loving Jesus and others, but also walking in the truth of Jesus.**

**Acts 2:42 - And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching (didaché (did-akh-ay') doctrine) and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.**

**Knowing there is truth… and there are lies. Understanding there is right and wrong. Good teaching and false teaching.**

**(ministers are especially charged) Titus 1:9 - He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it. / Titus 2:1 But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine.**

**Paul warns the church to avoid – 1 Tim 6:3 - …anyone who teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness… / 1 Tim 4:16 16 Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.**

**Theology matters. So many Christians believe wacky stuff – simply because they do not know the Bible for themselves.**

**20 …teaching them to observe (obey)…**

**8. This mission takes time**

**Teaching / making disciples - takes time & patience – it is not instant. No info dumps - it includes walking w/ people in patient relationships.**

**Teaching disciples to obey - to obey Jesus - not just believe in.**

**This is a process of growth & understanding. Changes in the way we think. Disciples are teachable. Grace & forgiveness.**

**We will do this our whole life. With others and with ourselves.**

**20 …teaching them to observe (obey) all that I have commanded you.**

**9. This mission includes the tough stuff – God’s word cover to cover**

**When one picks and chooses what to - obey, teach, or believe, we do an injustice to discipleship and present a false gospel.**

**That means we do not water down the message.**

**The Problem of Consumer Truth (2 Tim 4:1-5) - We live in a consumer culture – churches are careful to give what people want. In a desire to win converts some have made Jesus convenient – or self-centered. Watering down the tough stuff and the sacrifices of following Jesus.**

**This mission is about transformation not just information**

**Life change, not just right beliefs – walking with people thru this.**

**20 And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”**

**10. This mission is powered by our ever-present Jesus**

**We will never be alone in this mission or life – Jesus is with us always!**

**At home – work – school – we are never alone! He has not left us – he is ever present. If the world leaves me, He won’t!**

**If you are a follower of Jesus this is our mission. If you choose to accept it life will be exciting, adventurous, and meaningful.**

**Some sow, some reap - HS works in, draws in, does heart work**

**Life’s moments are fleeting, and the mission is urgent**

**I'll wait until… Jesus says people are dying on the vine.**

**Matt 9 – The harvest is plentiful, labors are few. Pray for laborers.**

**John 4:35 – The harvest is ripe and ready for picking.**

**Jam 4:14 – life is a vapor / Ps 144:4 Man is like a breath… a fleeting shadow.**

**Start now – today. Start at home and work your way out.**

**Today’s greatest – is the purpose of every Christian alive.**

**If you are not a Christian – you have only one purpose – know God. Know his goodness and grace. Seek him and you will find him.**