

No Mission but God's

Introduction:

Pause for a moment and think about the reality of a lost world. How can we make a difference? Are we emboldened by the impossibility of it all? Or do we leave mission work and local evangelism to the experts & those w/the resources to do it? Do we settle just to the work of providing the support structure & organization to indirectly support the great commission? The task of evangelism can be overwhelming. *Who is adequate for such things?*

I. 3:4-6 – It wasn't His mission – it was God's.

- A. 3:4-6 - God's mission has placed us where He wants.
- B. 3:18-4:2 – what does this teach us?
 - 1. We are not the initiators of the mission.
 - 2. We are not the senders – we are the *sent*.
- C. 4:5-9 - We are just vessels & containers for this good news treasure.
 - 1. We are just clay pots; vessels; garbage bags; filled w/treasure.
 - 2. Paul uses a similar allusion in 2 Tim. 2:20-21.

II. Should the prospect of evangelism drive us to despair?

- A. Back to 2:16 – *who is adequate?* None of us.
 - 1. This should cause us to be honest & realize that the power behind our efforts belongs to God!
- B. Throughout 2 Cor – Paul focuses on “the empowering of God.”
 - 1. Let's focus on how God gives us the power to do His work.
 - 2. This empowers and primes us to do more as participants of that mission than we could have ever imagined.
 - a) Phil. 4:13; Eph. 3:20
- C. Look and see the hand of God at work among us & around us:

III. We make disciples *for* Jesus – for we do it *with* Him.

- A. Could there be a part of the great commission we have neglected?
- B. Mt. 28:18, 20b - Two statements that Jesus proclaims about Himself.
- C. 28:18 - Jesus claims all authority.
 - 1. **Jesus is not delegating responsibility here.**
- D. Mt. 28:20b – this commission is not being “left up to us.”
- E. Think: we do not make our own disciples – we make disciples *for* Jesus.
 - 1. Let's don't leave Jesus out of the process!
 - a) Look at the early church. They experienced Jesus' presence among them.
 - 2. Jesus is still w/us & it ought to change who we are!

Conclusion:

- A. What can we do that will *take our evangelism to the next level?*
 - 1. Let's seek to have a vision for what God is doing.
 - 2. Let's pray that God will work w/in us.
- B. Let it be said of us that all we do and all that we are is *God at work among us*.
 - 1. We are the visible evidence of His mission.
 - 2. We are an example of His work.
- C. The mission is God's. John 3:16; 1 Cor. 15:1-5; John 20:30-31
- D. Here and outside of Christ? Won't you believe & obey today?