**“A God-Sized Vision for the Mission of the Church”**

**February 19th, 2017**

**Text: Matt. 28:16-20**

**Keith Doyle – Lead Pastor**

**I. Introduction:**

**1. *‘Unfortunately the ‘great commission’ has become the ‘great omission’ for the modern church’***

 – S. Briscoe.

* Why is that? Mixture of the two things…
* Complacency and consumerism can creep into our thinking and our behavior…in modern church…not very salty, not much light (c/f Matt.5:13,14…tepid living leads to tepid witness (they go together)
* Coupled with the blindness of sin and unbelief (c/f 2 Cor.4:4) - They don’t believe because you don’t want to believe! **Illus.** # of ‘nothings’
* **Illus.** Experiment at the tower…*’…this must be magic – Aristotle can’t be wrong’* – Our text today, ***‘…and some doubted…’*** (17)
* You don’t believe because you don’t want to believe! How will this be overcome?

**2. Illus.** Matt.16:15-19

* His church and ‘keys’ to the kingdom of heaven…authority (c/f Matt.16:19; Rev.1:18)
* ‘I have come to ‘set’ captives free’ (spiritual bondage, c/f Lk.4:18)
* ‘I have come to seek and save the lost’ (c/f Lk.19:10)
* ‘I have come that they might have life’ (c/f Jn.10:10)
* Pete helped us last week…He is God’s conquering Son…’you’ are the light…with KEYS (Gospel keys)!!!

 ***Q. What part do we (the church) have in Jesus’ global mission?***

**II. The Motive for the Mission (‘*All authority is given to me…in heaven and earth…’* 18,19)**

1. **The Basis for this Authority**
* Context of Matthew 28 – Jesus crucified, buried, raised, seen by many, gathered and commanded (given once, climatic) – the Summons of the King!
* ***‘All authority is given to me…*’** – authority **(‘*exousia’*)** = freedom and right to speak as one pleases. As it pertains to God it is therefore ‘absolute’, ‘unlimited’
* The Magi and Herod (Matt.2,3)
* Satan’s offer (Matt.4)
* Gentile centurion and calming a storm (Matt.8)
* Power over unclean spirits (Matt.10)
* Resurrection…sign of authority (Matt.12; c/f Eph.1:20,21,Phil.2:8-11, Col.2:9,15)
1. **The Breadth of this Authority, *‘All…in heaven and earth’* (18)**
* ***‘All’*…**=the ‘all’ is reinforced and delineated by ‘heaven’ and ‘earth’ – universal

c/f 7:13,14 Daniel vision; Jesus’ own description c/f Matt.24:30,26:64

* So…before ‘sending’ others, Jesus establishes His own absolute authority
* **Apply:** ‘Authority’ and the Holy Spirit (c/f Acts 1:4)

 **III. The Method of the Mission *(‘Go…make (disciples all nations)…baptizing them…’* )**

1. **Making Disciples**
* ***‘Go…’*** is in command, continuous form
* Gk. Word, ***‘make disciples’*** - (***‘matheteuo’***) used means ‘believing’ and ‘learning’ – there is no disconnect in Scripture between ‘becoming’ a disciple and ‘making’ other disciples…
* **Apply:** the word ‘destroys’ easy believism and ‘two-phase’ conversion
* **Eg.** Of the rich young ruler (c/f Lk.18:18-23) – was this missional failure?
* **Apply:** Expecting ‘normal’, ‘supernatural’ conversions

1. **Baptizing Disciples**
* As reproduction in kind is natural to life (c/f Gen.1:28) so is discipleship for the new creation – discipleship is to be inherently reproductive
* Trinity rooted in discipleship, ***‘in the name of…Father, Son and Spirit’***
* This is for, ***‘…all nations’***
* **Apply:** Go…make…baptize…teach…We don’t get to pick and choose…One Gospel to all people! It’s possible to go ‘on mission’ without Jesus’ Gospel and discipleship method! Going and sending…

**III. The Message of the Mission (…*’teaching them to observe all…’* 20)**

1. **What doesn’t he say?**
* Entertain them? Coddle them? Give them options? Seek their approval?
* We now bear the message of King Jesus and His Word!
1. **Imperative**
* ***‘Teach them…’*** – direct, admonish, influencing, aligning understanding (c/f Jn.14:23-26); what? ***‘All that I have commanded you’***
* **Apply:** Why is this so unusual today? Not ‘comparative’ purposes…but a call to us
1. **Go…Send…Disobey** (the 3 choices of Mission, J. Piper)
* **As His People we should be bold because:**
* We are commissioned by the One who has all authority
* We bear His Life-transforming message of salvation (no other name!)
* We are fulfilling His Mission as we live in obedience to this command
* **Apply:** So…how do we ‘kill’ our tendency towards consumerism and complacency in Jesus’ mission? Let’s go for the ‘root’…
* Our affection for Christ
* Our personal embrace of His mission

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