

Morning Star Baptist Church
"I am a Baptist Because..."
The Royal Mandate
5/13/07

Introduction

Ezra 8:36 And they delivered the king's commissions unto the king's lieutenants, and to the governors on this side the river: and they furthered the people, and the house of God.

Baptists have through the two millennia taken the Great Commission very seriously **Matthew 28-18-20**. Why is the Great Commission so great? Because of

- All power
- All things
- All nations
- Always

If the disciples/early church would have perpetrated a lie of Jesus' resurrection and hid the body do you think they would have started in Jerusalem? Why were they so successful in their own local, when it would have been easiest to disprove them there? Jehovah's Witnesses were run out of Germany for not paying their bills. Mormons were run out of Ohio, then Illinois, for their illegal immorality. 7th Day Adventists had to cover up their embarrassing failures of predicting Christ's return. But NT Christianity confronts its' truth with open hands and conquers with unequalled love!

I. The Essential Power

A. While it is true that we should rejoice in wherever and however the Gospel is preached as Paul did in **Philippians 1:14-18**, the only agency on earth truly authorized to carry out the Great Commission is the Church that Jesus started.

B. Christ has all power (authority) and when He said "Go," He meant to go with authority.

C. There are two essential components.

1) Baptism: The NT Church members had received authorized John the Baptist baptisms. All others are imposters and imitations.

2) All Things: The embodiment of the doctrine Jesus gave to the apostles. Once given **Jude 3**. No other ecclesiastical group holds to the statement "all things," as we do, even with all our imperfections.

D. God is not bound. He can and does use Protestants to invite sinners to come to Christ and to teach some truth **Revelation 22:17**. But they cannot scripturally baptize and they will not teach all things to be observed. They can't or else they would be Baptists.

E. If Baptists were more zealous for evangelism perhaps God would not use mission boards, para-church groups, and evangelicals.

F. Oh, that we would truly recognize the awesome responsibility **Luke 12:48 ...For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.** We should be provoked to jealousy to see God using obedient Protestants. **Romans 11:14 If by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them.**

G. All mission work must be done under the authority of a NT Church if it is to be scriptural.

II. The Empty People

A. This world is a howling wilderness spiritually **Ephesians 2:12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:**

B. All religions possess some (worldly) wisdom that they apply in will worship, humility, and neglecting of the body **Colossians 2:23**. We see some of this in Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, and Catholicism.

C. But no man made religion offers any solid solution for man's sin problem or for lasting hope and assurance of heaven. No man made religion or philosophy brings men into a reconciled harmony with God.

D. We must go into all the world and preach the Gospel! We may need to rethink our worldview of evangelism to include the so-called "10-40" peoples of Chad, Iraq, Israel, Libya, Bhutan, Morocco, Nepal, Syria, Tibet, Tunisia, Yemen, Turkey, Vietnam, and Sudan, as well as the Muslims.

E. There are about 6.7 billion people on earth, 24000 people groups, and 236 countries. But are we reaching the white fields or are we laboring in the fields of chaff and empty husks? We need a great awakening among Baptists to go to the uttermost and the guttermost with the Gospel.

III. The Excellent Plan

A. A Perfect Plan **Matthew 28**

- Someone must go preach and win the lost
- Someone must baptize and organize churches

- Someone must then disciple and train men and women to repeat the process

B. Are we reaching the masses? Christianized nations have about 800 people per missionary. Buddhist nations have 176,150 per missionary. Hindu nations have 177,074 per missionary. And Muslim nations have nearly 300,000 people per missionary.

C. We must not be satisfied with what Baptists have done in the past. Men like William Carey, Adoniram Judson, John Peck, Bob Hughes, Fred Donaldson, John Paton, Robert Moffit, Paul Mulling, and Dempsey Henderson.

D. But we need more than just talk. "A man that will not preach the Gospel with his purse should not profess it with his lips," said J.W. Porter. "It is the price and not the principal of missions that gives offence. It is not that we love missions less - we just love the dollar more. We don't object to sending the Gospel abroad, we just prefer keeping our dollars at home." If we can't go and we don't send our children, at least we must send money.

E. We must work our plan. We have our Royal Mandate. Now we need men.

Conclusion

Give us a watchword for the hour,
A thrilling word, a word of power,
A battle cry, a flaming breath
That calls to conquest or to death.

A word to rouse the church from rest,
To heed the Master's [strong request].
The call is given: Ye hosts, arise,
Our watchword is, *evangelize!*

The glad evangel now proclaim,
Through all the earth, in Jesus' name;
This word is ringing through the skies:
Evangelize! Evangelize!

To dying men, a fallen race,
Make known the gift of Gospel grace;
The world that now in darkness lies,
Evangelize! Evangelize!

("Evangelize! Evangelize!" by Dr. Oswald J. Smith, 1889-1986;
to the tune of "And Can It Be?" by Charles Wesley, 1707-1788).

How can we grow if we are so small? MSBC must grow in heart, in heads and hands, in honor, and in financial help! If we have more care and prayer then we will have more dare and share.

Why are we here and why is God blessing us? Is it so that we can create our own style and originate our own program? No, our job is to get with God's program. World Missions is The Royal Mandate. Baptists have a debt to the world. Let's stop paying on the interest only and start paying down the principal. The Royal Mandate has come to this

side of the river. What is your response?