

“THE GREAT OMISSION”

(The Rise of the Non-Evangelistic, Evangelical Church)

Sky Cline

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Most evangelical churches have Matthew 28:16-20 (also known as the ‘Great Commission’) in their mission or purpose statement. A purpose statement explicitly states an organization’s *raison d’être* (purpose for existence). The Great Commission should be in the purpose statement of every faithful, biblically based, evangelical church. The Great Commission expresses our Lord’s goal for the church, it extends Christ’s mission to His body, the church. The Great Commission should remind us of God’s salvific plan culminating in the life, death and resurrection of the Messiah Jesus and the church’s obligation to be the herald of that news. “1 Tim 1:15 – Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners...”

The evangelical churches have in large part extinguished their lamps; their lifeboats are in disrepair. This blatant failure and reorientation has taken place largely on two distinct fronts. The light of the gospel has been dimmed by both a dismemberment of the good news and as well as a retreat into the monastic citadels of a homogeneous Christian community.

By the dismemberment of the gospel I mean in short, it has become rare to hear the biblical gospel truthfully and faithfully expounded. The wickedness of man’s heart, the holiness of God and the repentance and faith required by God in order for true reconciliation and salvation to occur are in large measure jettisoned cargo. Mercy and pardon are often preached at the exclusion of one’s just condemnation before Holy God with the effect that the love and mercy of God are hollow and sterile words, devoid of power. Sin, hell-fire, judgment and Godly guilt have become unholy relics of a past ‘unsophisticated’ era. These have been replaced with a church that is consumer driven and exists to pander to the fancies of a congregation half drowned in spiritual mediocrity. It is a gospel that takes its queues from surveys and the perceived needs of needs of people, rather than from God’s Word and thus God’s heart.

The second front of reorientation is more practical in application. Simply put, churches are not evangelizing their ‘Jeruselems’. Churches are not ‘going’ and engaging their communities. They are not ‘making disciples’ in their respective neighborhoods. If the purpose of the church is in part to ‘make disciples of all nations’ what is all the activity in the church about? Seminars, Bible studies, commentaries, Bible classes, DVD series, fellowship, children’s choirs, adult choirs, committees, men’s classes, women’s classes, youth classes, children’s classes, infant classes, more Bible studies, lunches, dinners, breakfasts, books, committees, meetings, more seminars,.....what is their purpose? Many Christians have sat through decades of Bible study

and have never disciple a heathen from conversion to maturity nor are most capable of such. The only groups actively engaging most American communities are Arian and Polytheistic heretics.

The Great Commission then becomes a picture in the foyer with an arrow to a foreign country; it becomes the 'outsourcing' to an elite professional 'foreign legion' of Christian mercenaries hired out to fulfill the Great Commission in 'foreign' lands.

Another reason the 'evangelical' church is not evangelical is because the culture does not sanction evangelism. American culture endorses food pantries, clothes closets, and a variety of socio-economic assistance by the church, but not evangelism. Actively engaging one's community with the message of the cross is strictly off limits. The 'spirit' of this cultural opposition is so pervasive that many 'evangelical' churches decry any form of face to face gospel witnessing.

OUR MISSION

YES, PASTOR MONROE, I COMMIT TO THE FOLLOWING PARTS OF THE 4-POINT PLAN. I REALIZE THIS IS A COMMITMENT TO THE LORD THAT I MAKE IN ALL SINCERITY.

_____ To GROW as a Christian by practicing the spiritual disciplines of Bible reading, study, prayer and faithful attendance to church.

_____ To SHINE so that my life makes a convincing case for the Christian faith. I will seek to be the salt and light in my world.

_____ To SPEAK to non-Christian friends and family members, looking for opportunities to witness, share the gospel or lead Bible Studies. **I will diligently seek to lead one soul to Christ in 2016.**

_____ To TEACH those I lead to Christ how to live the Christian life.

Light the Lighthouse

GROW
2 Peter 3:18

SHINE
Matthew 5:16

SPEAK
Acts 1:8

TEACH
Matthew 28:20

