



No Options!

We Must Fulfill the Apostolic Mission

Dick Iverson

I. What Is the Apostolic Mission?

Challenge:

- Matt 28:18-20 - *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

Motivation:

- Matt 22:37; 39-40 - *Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."*

II. Problems Faced in Fulfilling Apostolic Mission

- A. 2 Thess 2:1-3 - *Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.*

A. What will cause us to be soon shaken and troubled in mind?

1. Jesus warned of devastating events that will occur right before His second coming.

Luke 21:25-28 - "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."

Matt 24:6, 7, 11, 12, 14 -- And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places . . . Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. . . . And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

- a. War on terror, Islam extremists
 - b. Israel/Palestine problem
 - c. Hurricanes/Tsunamis/Earthquakes
 - d. Famine
 - e. Political Turmoil
2. Don't be soon shaken
- a. suddenly, hastily, waver, totter, to be moved
 - b. world will be shook
 - c. shaken in mind, intellect, will, emotions, ability to think

Luke 21:34-35 - "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth."

3. Who or What Controls Your Mind Controls You
- a. Believe – live in accordance
 - b. Fear – in charge of your life
4. Troubled – inward fright
- a. Devoured by fear, anxiety and worry
 - b. Ongoing state of worry
5. No Pause Between Shocking & Debilitating Events

"Some things will be happening right before His coming that could shake you up quite a bit. I'm referring to events that will be so dramatic that they could really leave your head spinning – occurrences of such a serious nature that many people will end up feeling alarmed, panicked, intimidated, and even unnerved! Naturally speaking, these events could nearly drive you over the brink emotionally, putting your nerves on edge and making you feel apprehensive and insecure about life. I wish I could tell you these incidents were going to be just a one-shot deal, but when they finally get rolling, they're going to keep coming and coming, one after another. That's why you have to determine not to be shaken or moved by anything you see or hear. You need to get a grip on your mind and refuse to allow yourselves to be traumatized by these events. If you let these things get to you, it won't be too long until you're a nervous wreck! So decide beforehand that you are not going to give in and allow "fright" to worm its way into your mind and emotions until it ruins your whole life."

Wrong Results	Right Results
Insecurity	Therefore Watch – Mt. 24:42; 25:13
Fear	Therefore Comfort One Another – I Thes. 4:18
Hopelessness	Therefore Be Ready – Mt. 24:44
Suspense	Therefore be Sober – I Thes. 5:6
Anxiety	Wherefore Edify One Another – I Thes. 5:11
Tension	Wherefore Pray – II Thes. 1:11
Nervousness	Therefore Stand Fast – II Thes. 2:15
Escapism	Wherefore Be Diligent – II Pet. 3:14
Fainting	Therefore Be Steadfast – I Cor. 15:58
Resignation	Therefore Be Unmoveable – I Cor. 15:58
Date-setting	Therefore Always Abound in the Work of the
Scare Tactics	Lord – I Cor. 15:58
Imaginative Predictions	Therefore Be Patient – Jas. 5:7-8
Trauma	Wherefore Be Sober and Hope – I Pet. 1:13

III. The Solution

Col. 3:15-16-- *And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*

Rom 14:17 -- *for the kingdom of God is . . . righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

- A. Rule = umpire, God of peace makes the calls and decisions.
- B. Word dwells in you richly.
- C. Don't Live in the Past – victories or failures – no parking
 1. Phil 3:13-14 - *Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*
 2. Your worst enemy is your past
 3. Look what I have accomplished!! (Not what people think but what the Lord thinks.)
 4. 2 Cor 10:12 - *Not that we [have the audacity to] venture to class or [even to] compare ourselves with some who exalt and furnish testimonials for themselves! However, when they measure themselves with themselves and compare themselves with one another, they are without understanding and behave unwisely.*

- D. How do we measure ourselves?
1. Have I finished the goals God gave me?
 2. Have I given my best efforts to achieve His will?
 3. What changes do I have to make to accomplish what He has given me to do?
 4. Paul could have said, “Compared to others look what I have done!”
 - a. Preached all around the Mediterranean Sea
 - b. Preached in Imperial Palace
 - c. Started churches all over Asia
 - d. Wrote most of the New Testament

IV. Paul’s Response

Phil 3:13-14 -- Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

- A. Yesterday’s victories were for yesterday
- B. Yesterday’s good reports were for yesterday
- C. Yesterday’s accomplishments were for yesterday
- D. Yesterday’s failures were for yesterday

No Option – We Must Fulfill Our Apostolic Mission

V. We Are Winning

Mega Shift by James Rutz

Early Christianity – 1 in 360

50 Years Ago – 1 in 32

Today – 1 in 7

Christ’s Return – Majority

NO OPTIONS!