

The background of the cover is a photograph of a church interior. In the foreground, there is a wooden floor with a prominent grain pattern. In the background, a white cloth is draped over a table, possibly an altar or a table of service. The lighting is somewhat dim, creating a solemn atmosphere.

Our Greatest Mission: Evangelism

Willie A. Alvarenga

OUR GREATEST MISSION: PERSONAL EVANGELISM

Willie Alvarenga

TEXTS: Mark 16:15-16; Matthew 28:18-20; Matthew 4:19; Mark 1:17; Luke 5:10

PROPOSITION: Every faithful Christian needs to take very seriously the great mission God has given us.

OBJECTIVE: Encourage every member of the body of Christ to be more evangelistic.

INTRODUCTION:

1. All of the verses I have just quoted express God's desire concerning evangelism.
2. How much attention are we paying to these verses?
3. Sadly to say, our greatest mission has become the greatest omission in the church.
4. With this in mind, let us consider the following points:
 - a. Our present reality concerning
 - b. Our present command
 - c. Why one of the greatest mission
 - d. How can we accomplish this great mission
5. As we study each of these points, let me encourage each of you to consider the following passages of Scripture: **Acts 17:11; Luke 9:44; 8:18; James 1:22; Matthew 11:28**

In order to fully understand our greatest mission, we must...

I. **ACKNOWLEDGE OUR PRESENT REALITY CONCERNING EVANGELISM.**

A. *What is our present reality concerning evangelism.*

- a. There is no compassion in the heart of many Christians towards the lost (**Matthew 9:36-38**).

- b. There is no involvement by Christians when we talk about evangelism.
 - c. We are not taking advantage of the opportunities to talk to others about Christ (tracts, invitations, flyers, etc.).
 - d. Many Christians are not convinced that man is lost without the gospel of Christ (**Romans 1:16**).
 - e. Many Christians are not convinced that NOT preaching the gospel will bring serious consequences (**Mark 16:15; 1 John 3:4; James 4:17**).
 - f. Some Christians are NOT evangelizing through their example (**Matthew 5:13-16; 1 Timothy 4:12; Colossians 4:5**).
- B. Are we guilty of practicing these things?
- C. May God help us to acknowledge our present spiritual condition so that we may change for the better!

II. **ACKNOWLEDGE OUR PRESENT COMMAND CONCERNING EVANGELISM.**

- A. *God has given us a command to follow and obey:*
- a. Mark 16:15 we are to preach the gospel to the whole world!
 - b. Matthew 28:18-20 we are to make disciples and preach the gospel to them!
- B. *We acknowledge this command by remembering who we are:*
- a. **Matthew 4:19; Mark 1:17; Luke 5:10** show us that we are fishers of men!
 - b. **1 Corinthians 3:9** we are God's fellow workers!
 - c. **2 Timothy 2:3** we are soldiers of Christ on a mission to rescue the lost of this world!

- d. “Rescue the perishing, duty demands it; strength for thy labor the Lord will provide; back to the narrow way, patiently win them; tell the poor wanderers a Savior has died” (# 180).
- C. *We acknowledge this divine command by considering the growth of the early church and their hard work:*
- a. **Acts 2:41**, about 3,000
 - b. **Acts 4:4**, about 5,000
 - c. **Acts 5:14**, multitudes of men and women obeyed the gospel, why?
 - d. **Acts 5:28**, they had filled all Jerusalem with the gospel of Christ
 - e. **Acts 6:7**, the Word of God kept on spreading and the number of those who obeyed increased, even to the point that priests were obeying the gospel.
 - f. **Acts 17:6**, they had turned the world upside down.
 - g. The early church took serious the great commission! Are we doing the same!
- D. *We acknowledge this divine command by considering God’s desire for mankind:*
- a. **1 Timothy 2:4**, God wants men to be saved!
 - b. **2 Peter 3:9**, God wants men to repent and be saved (**Acts 17:30**)
 - c. **Ezekiel 33:11**, God does not want the wicked to perish, but to live!
 - d. **Romans 5:8**, God’s love sent His only Son to die for us!
 - e. **Mark 16:15**, this is why Jesus sent His disciples to preach the gospel to the whole world!
 - f. **Titus 2:11**, the grace of God has appeared bringing salvation to all men!

- g. There is no doubt that God wants men to be saved and spent eternity in Heaven. Nevertheless, not many will respond to the gospel call (**2 Thessalonians 2:14; Matthew 7:13-14**).

E. Have we acknowledged God's divine command to preach the Gospel?

III. **ACKNOWLEDGE THE REASONS WHY PERSONAL EVANGELISM IS A GREAT MISSION.**

A. Have we considered the reasons why God wants us to preach the gospel to the entire world?

B. Please notice the following reasons why you and I must preach the gospel to men:

- a. People need to know that they are lost because of sin (**Genesis 3:23-24; Isaiah 59:1-2; Romans 3:9-10; 6:23; 1 John 5:19; Jeremiah 51:5**).
- i. Sin is violation of God's Word (**1 John 3:4; 5:17; James 4:17**).
- b. People need to know that Jesus is the only way to be free from sin (**John 8:32; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14**).
- i. There is no Heaven, unless man's sins are forgiven (**Revelation 21:27; Romans 6:23**).
- c. People need to know that Jesus is the only way to make it to heaven (**John 14:1-3, 6; Acts 4:12; 1 John 5:11; Colossians 1:27; Titus 1:2**).
- d. People need to know that we care for them and that we want them to be in heaven (**Mark 12:31**).
- e. We need to know that our salvation depends upon our obedience and involvement to this great mission (**James 4:17; Matthew 7:21**).

- f. God needs our help to make the gospel known to men (**1 Corinthians 3:9; Mark 16:15; Matthew 28:18-20**).
- C. These are some reasons why you and I need to share the gospel with the lost.
- D. Are we carefully considering these reasons?

IV. ACKNOWLEDGE “HOW” WE CAN ACCOMPLISH THIS GREAT MISSION.

- A. There is no doubt that we can accomplish the mission of preaching the gospel to the lost!
- B. Let us consider the ways how you and I can accomplish this great mission:
 - a. Support missionaries who will preach the gospel in other countries
 - b. Support preacher students who will preach the gospel to many souls
 - c. Support those instructors and directors of Preaching Schools who make sure students receive the proper training to effectively preach the gospel of Christ to the lost
 - d. If possible, be involved in radio and television programs
 - e. Give more generously to the cause of Christ; the more money we give, the more we can do to save the lost from sin!
 - f. Pass out tracts with information about salvation and the church.
 - g. Learn how you can share the gospel with family and friends. Ask your local preacher to teach you methods on how you can preach the gospel.
 - h. Let us pray for us so that we may have compassion for the lost; and let us also pray for those who will hear the gospel being preached by us.
 - i. Be friendly to those who visit our worship services!

- j. Be a good example to those who are around you!
- C. Are we doing these things?
- D. There is so much we can do to accomplish the task that God has set before us. Let us put our minds to work and be obedient to the great commission.

CONCLUSION:

1. In this lesson we have considered several principles that we must examine in order to accomplish this great mission God has given us.
2. May God help us to put them to practice!
3. The world needs the gospel more than ever; let us take it to them!