I. Need For Unity In The Church

A. 2 Cor. 10:4—Casting down of strongholds (prejudices) in peoples’ minds
   1. Restoration and completion of the church: Jesus prepared the way for the church by giving specific instructions at the close of His earthly ministry.
   2. In the military, orders are in force till revoked. Jesus’ orders have never been canceled. Unfortunately, they have seldom been obeyed.

B. Matt. 28:18–20—The church is required to exercise authority on the Lord’s behalf.
   1. “All authority has been given to Me . . . go therefore . . .”
   2. Scripturally, baptism is a commitment to discipleship

C. Mark 16:15–18—All-encompassing
   1. “. . . all the world . . . every creature . . .”
   2. Once the gospel has been presented there is no further room for neutrality

D. Acts 1:6–9—We are to be witnesses: To live in such a way that there is no explanation other than that Jesus Christ is alive
   1. This passage contains the last words that Jesus spoke on earth—meant to be impressed on the disciples
   2. The only Person who can explain the Gospel is the Holy Spirit. We are simply required to proclaim the Gospel.

E. Matt. 24:3–14—The sign of the end of the age—
   1. “This Gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world to all the nations . . .”
   2. There is no more urgent task for the church

F. Rev. 5:8–9—Every person on earth has a right to know that Jesus rose from the dead.
   1. This generation has all the technical tools needed to do the job in one generation
   2. Every tribe, tongue, people and nation must be represented in the final ingathering

   1. Both testify to the power of thanksgiving
   2. Matt. 16:5–10—Jesus reminds the disciples of the correct figures
      a. When He and a bigger crowd and less to start with, there was more left over than when there was a smaller crowd and more to start with
      b. The lesson: God operates according to our faith and our need, not according to our initial resources.

H. Principles
   1. The disciples did not want to accept responsibility, but Jesus gave them an order.
      a. Disciples: “. . . send them away . . .”
      b. Jesus: “. . . you feed them . . .”
   2. Relationship between order/discipline and the supernatural. Each is needed but incomplete without the other.
3. The greater the need, and the fewer the resources, the greater the surplus
4. Luke 12:48—The more we have, the more is required of us. U.S. Christians probably have an obligation that exceeds that of any other group of Christians in the world. We are living on capital inherited from Christian forbears

II. Applications
   A. Attitude change: See ourselves co-responsible with fellow believers for all nations of the world
   B. God’s direction: Those who do not go to “the ends of the earth” must consider themselves every bit as involved as those who do
   C. Seek God for our particular sphere of responsibility:
      1. Example of apostles—Paul to the Gentiles; Peter, James, John to the Jews
      2. Personal example of African daughter’s coming to their home. Pray to be ready when the challenge comes
   D. Others outside our assigned sphere: See them as our representatives and responsibility, because the Body of Christ is one
   E. Closing prayer that we might have compassion for a world that needs help

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