

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

- 1) 05 March 2017 ..... Matthew 14-16..... Who is this Jesus?
- 2) 12 March ..... Matthew 17-18..... Is Jesus Fully God?
- 3) 19 March ..... Matthew 19-20..... What is Required?
- 4) 26 March ..... Matthew 21:1-17 ..... More Than a Prophet?
- 5) 02 April ..... Matthew 21:18-46... What Happens If I Reject Jesus?
- 6) 09 April ..... Matthew 22-23..... Offered to All?
- 7) 16 April ..... Matthew 28:1-15 ..... Where is Jesus?
- 8) 23 April ..... Matthew 24-25..... What About the Future?
- 9) 30 April ..... Matthew 26:1-30 ..... How Do We Remember?
- 10) 07 May ..... Matthew 26:31-46 ..... Do I Have the Strength?
- 11) 14 May ..... Matthew 26:47-75 ..... Loyal to Whom?
- 12) 21 May ..... Matthew 27 ..... Crucified for What?
- 13) 28 May ..... Matthew 28:16-20..... What Do We Do Now?**

**INTRODUCTION**

- **Matthew 28:16-20.** The Great Commission is given. How well are we fulfilling that commission?
  - ♦ How urgent should we be to share the Gospel?
  - ♦ Why do we need to even share the Gospel?
  - ♦ Are we responsible if people go to Hell?
  - ♦ How does God's sovereignty fit into the Gospel? Doesn't He save whom He wants to save?
  - ♦ How does martyrdom fit into the Gospel?

Passage	Comments
Matthew 28:16-17	<p><b>Another Mountain Top Experience</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v16. They met Jesus at the designated <a href="#">mountain</a></li> <li>• v17. Even after physically seeing the risen Christ "...some doubted"</li> <li>• Don't many of us doubt the Risen Savior as well?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ He promises to take care of our needs if we "seek first His Kingdom" –Yet, we doubt Him..... <a href="#">Mat 6:33</a></li> <li>♦ <b>What would help us overcome this lack of faith?</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
What is it about a Mountain that God enjoys?	<p><b>Consider this about some special Mountains:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God sent Abraham to the "<a href="#">Mount of the Lord</a>" to sacrifice his son, Isaac (often equated to the mountains of Jerusalem, which includes <a href="#">Mount Calvary</a> and the <a href="#">Temple Mount</a>) ..... <a href="#">Gen 22:14</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Ex 3:1</a>. <a href="#">Mount Horeb</a> was called the <a href="#">Mountain of God</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <a href="#">Ex 3:2</a>. Moses saw the burning bush on <a href="#">Mt Horeb</a></li> <li>♦ <a href="#">Ex 3:12</a>. After leaving Egypt, Israel worshipped God at this <a href="#">Mount</a> before heading to the Promised Land</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <a href="#">Ex 19:11</a>. God showed Himself on <a href="#">Mount Sinai</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Is 2:2</a>. In the last days the <a href="#">mountain of the house of the LORD</a> will be established as the <a href="#">chief of the mountains</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Is 8:18</a>. The LORD of hosts dwells on <a href="#">Mount Zion</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Is 24:23</a>. The LORD of hosts will reign on <a href="#">Mount Zion</a> (aka, the <a href="#">Temple Mount</a>) and in Jerusalem</li> <li>• <a href="#">Is 65:25</a>. They will do no evil or harm in all <a href="#">My holy mountain</a>," says the LORD.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Is 66:20</a>. Israel will be gathered from around the world to "<a href="#">My holy mountain Jerusalem</a>,"</li> <li>• <a href="#">Ezek 20:40</a>. on "<a href="#">My holy mountain</a>, on the high <a href="#">mountain of Israel</a>, there the whole house of Israel, all of them, will serve Me in the land; says the Lord</li> <li>• <a href="#">Rev 14:1</a>. Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb was standing on <a href="#">Mount Zion</a>, and with Him 144,000</li> <li>• <a href="#">Rev 21:10</a>. And he carried me away in the Spirit to a <a href="#">great and high mountain</a>, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ This is probably the same mountain in vs 16</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
How urgent should we be to share the Gospel?	<p><b>From a short-sighted human perspective, God doesn't seem too urgent to get the Gospel out</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He didn't send Jesus to die on the Cross till 4,000 years after man's Creation (though He arrived on time "when the fullness of the time came", <a href="#">Gal 4:4</a>)</li> <li>• He prefers to use weak, ignorant, apathetic (sometimes pathetic) men &amp; women as His agents</li> <li>• He prefers to use providence (God working behind the scenes) instead of supernatural miracles &amp; wonders</li> <li>• Even Sodom &amp; Gomorrah, Tyre &amp; Sidon would still be around today if God had sent a miracle worker to them as He did for Capernaum &amp; Chorazin ..... <a href="#">Mat 11:21-23</a></li> </ul> <p><b>HOWEVER, Urgency does not mean an aimless Rush Job. The Urgency of the Gospel has these elements:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is purpose-driven – not aimless</li> <li>2. It is intentional – not whimsical</li> <li>3. It has high priority – and not to be done when we just feel like it or when we get a chance</li> <li>4. We only have so much time left to do so – there won't be any sharing of the Gospel in Heaven</li> <li>5. It is out of love for God and compassion for the lost</li> <li>6. It is out of gratitude for God saving us that we should be eager partakers to share Christ with others</li> </ol> <p><b>Other Elements of Urgency of the Gospel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a driving force or motivation behind evangelism</li> <li>• Without a sense of urgency, the persecutions that believers suffer for the sake of the gospel becomes something to be avoided.</li> <li>• The urgency of the gospel has propelled missionaries to all corners of the earth, often at sacrificial cost to their own lives, employment, and family.</li> <li>• <b>What other reasons would give us urgency to share?</b></li> </ul>
Matthew 28:19-20  Why do we need to even share the Gospel?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first and foremost reason is out of Gratitude for God saving us through the probable witness of at least one other Christian some time in our life</li> <li>• As the Apostle Paul stated, "Woe is me if I do not preach the Gospel"..... <a href="#">1Cor 9:16</a></li> <li>• vv19-20. God commands us through this unescapable commission to "make disciples of all nations;" baptizing them in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – IOW, immerse them totally in the knowledge of God and His plans for mankind; and, to teach all disciples the "whole counsel of God" – Leave nothing out.</li> <li>• <b>What other reasons entice us to share God's love?</b></li> </ul>
What does it mean to Make Disciples & Baptize them in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit?	<p><b>Step 1.</b> Disciple-making begins with intelligently &amp; gently, and often sacrificially, convincing a Hell-bound sinner to become a Heaven-bound saint</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This takes intentional thought, study, time, and money</li> <li>• Every disciple is responsible to make other disciples</li> <li>• We don't do it robotically, but with compassion for the sinner and out of gratitude and love for God</li> </ul> <p><b>Step 2.</b> The next step is to immerse disciples, not in water necessarily, but in who God is – the ONE and only Triune, eternal, omniscient, omni-present, omnipotent, creator and sustainer of all things who loves mankind so much He willingly sacrificed His Son for our sins so we can spend eternity before His Holy, Perfect, &amp; Righteous presence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Again, it takes intentional thought, study, time, &amp; money</li> <li>• Disciple-making is all about people, not buildings</li> <li>• It is more than telling Bible stories – it is APOLOGETICS</li> </ul> <p><b>How else do we make disciples? When? Where?</b></p>

Passage	Comments
Are we responsible if people go to Hell?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will be held accountable as seen with Ezekiel being charged to warn the wicked of their dire condition or their blood will be on us ..... <a href="#">Ezek 3:17-21</a></li> <li>We need to be diligent like Paul who declared “that I am innocent of the blood of all men” ..... <a href="#">Acts 20:26</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Why? Because he dutifully shared the Gospel with everyone unashamedly, boldly, and clearly</li> </ul> </li> <li>We might be accountable for people going to Hell if we are negligent, lazy, or shameful with our witness, but we are not responsible for anyone going to Hell</li> <li>Each person is individually responsible for their own actions and, thereby, determines their own fate, whether they end up in Hell or not ..... <a href="#">Ezek 3:18</a></li> <li><b>What would we lose for not witnessing?....</b> <a href="#">1Cor 3:13-15</a></li> </ul>
How does God's sovereignty fit into the Gospel?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only God knows the hearts of every man, woman, boy &amp; girl. Eventually, people's true colors come out. Some gravitate toward sin and others repent ..... <a href="#">1John 2:19</a></li> <li>God who created space and time is not subject to them and never needs to rush to accomplish His goals</li> <li>Since God is outside of Time, His reasons to delay judgment allows the unrepentant time to repent, and prevents them from having an excuse ..... <a href="#">Rom 1:20</a></li> <li>Since God works providentially, He is not concerned about Time, but about Timing</li> <li><b>Any other sovereignty issues to consider?</b></li> </ul>
How does suffering and dying for Christ fit into the Gospel?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Early church theologian, Tertullian (c. 155 – c. 240) is given credit for stating that “the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church”                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>...BUT, some statistics don't bear this out (src: <a href="http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2014/december/sorry-tertullian.html">http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2014/december/sorry-tertullian.html</a>)</li> <li>Consider the persecution of Christians and almost the total annihilation of Christendom from Muslim and atheistic countries in recent years – The Church hasn't grown all that much numerically or spiritually</li> </ul> </li> <li>YET, Scripture states that persecution of God's people is taken personally by Jesus Christ, as seen in the conversion of Saul (<a href="#">Acts 9:4</a>); that we are appointed to suffer for the sake of Christ (<a href="#">Php 1:29 &amp; 1Peter 2:21</a>); which allows God to perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish us (<a href="#">1Peter 5:10</a>); and it is noted that following the death of James and the imprisonment of Peter, “the word of the Lord continued to grow and to be multiplied” (<a href="#">Acts 12</a>)</li> <li><b>What else does suffering &amp; dying for Christ produce?</b></li> </ul>
Matthew 28:20	<p><b>Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is a transcending promise for ALL Christians that Christ will always be with us to help us &amp; guide us in accomplishing His mission – “Teaching them to observe all that I commanded you”</li> <li>All other religions basically state “if you keep my teachings you don't need me” (religious leader)</li> <li>Christianity, however, is powerless without the indwelling of God's Spirit &amp; leading of Christ.. <a href="#">John 15:5</a></li> </ul>

- ◆ Yes, on a high level, all that is very true...BUT on a lower level, we have the opportunity to play a very important and pivotal role in what happens to many lives in the future

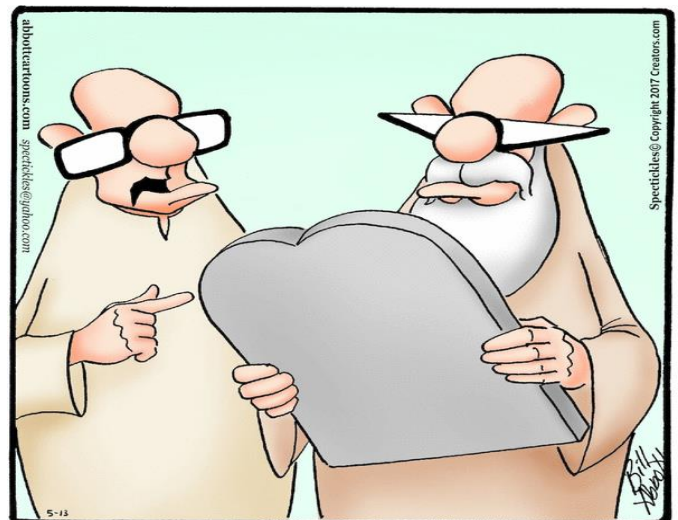
**SUPPORTING PASSAGES ABOUT URGENCY OF THE GOSPEL**

[John 9:4](#). We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work.  
[Acts 17:30-31](#). The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent  
[Rom 1:20](#). For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.  
[Rom 9:28](#). For the Lord will carry out his sentence upon the earth fully and without delay.”  
[Rom 13:11](#). For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.  
[1Cor 9:16](#). Woe is me if I do not preach the Gospel  
[2 Cor 6:2](#). Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.  
[Col 1:24](#). Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions.  
[2Tim 1:8](#). Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel  
[Revelation 1:3](#). Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.  
[Revelation 3:11](#). I am coming soon.

**Wisdom from Dr. Jim Castlen, a Seminary Professor and Missionary:**

Regarding Colossians 1:24, “How could Paul possibly “fill up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions”? In other words, can anyone, even Paul himself, add anything of merit, value, or eternal worth to what Jesus accomplished for us on the cross? Of course not! Then what does this mean? Since Christ's work on Calvary totally paid for & accomplished our salvation ([John 19:30](#)), the only thing that can “fill up what is lacking” is to herald the news about what He did for us. He accomplished it, but it remains for it to be proclaimed far & wide—that is what is still lacking today!

**NEXT WEEK: Psalm 1.** A different twist on things – the Righteous flourish in this life.



“Have you considered adding a cartoon or two to lighten it up?”

**CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS / CONSIDERATIONS**

- **Remember Our Focus → The Urgency of the Gospel**
- One might ask, “So what if more than ½ the world is slaughtered sometime in the future beyond my lifetime? Why should I care? It's going to happen as God says it's going to happen, and nothing I can say or do will alter God's plan for the ages.”