Commissioned to *Go* …

Under the command of King Jesus, every devoted disciple who is a new creation has been commissioned to be a **Royal Ambassador**, “as though God were making an appeal through us” (2 Corinthians 5:20).

Every church wants to grow and there is an abundance of plans and methods available, each claiming to be biblically based. However, most of these are driven by psychology, humanism, or business principles. While they may have a smattering of verses to satisfy the “biblical” requirement, they do not make **Royal Ambassadors** out of pew-sitters.

T4J Ministries is dedicated to promoting the only book God wrote on Evangelism – *The Acts of the Apostles.*

Training Focus

Teaching the Church to *Go …* is designed to ignite a fire based on a shift in thinking about the Gospel. Guiding the training is the ***T4J*** Vision and Mission:

Vision: To create an atmosphere of devotion to King Jesus that inspires disciples to be Royal Ambassadors

Mission: To teach the Biblical Gospel and encourage disciples to actively engage their world for the sake of the kingdom and God’s divine intent.

REIGNITE

THE

PASSION

FOR **KING JESUS**

Contact ***Teaching4Jesus Ministries*** to schedule our ***Teaching the Church to Go …***training to reignite your church as Royal Ambassadors for King Jesus.

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**Teaching the Church to *GO …***

**What Happened?**

**How do we …**

**What Happened**

Historically, two major shifts in teaching produced the non-disciple Christianity we are experiencing today.

1. In the fourth century, the church developed the Nicene Creed to confront heresies about the nature of Jesus. Unfortunately, other teachings developed based on it that opposed Scripture. One was the loss of the *priesthood of all believers.* The church leaders thought only a specially ordained man could “handle” Jesus in the communion. This led to an ordination that held that the ordained person was special. As a result, the distinction between clergy and laity robbed Christians of their ministry. Now, only the priest could do ministry. The Reformation did not restore God’s intentions to the people (Ephesians 4:11-12). Instead, it bought wholesale this idea that the minister through ordination was *gifted* to do all the work.
2. The Reformation opened the door to the redefinition of the Gospel, putting the emphasis on the believer (faithonlyism) rather than the person and nature of Jesus and His ministry. As a result, the Gospel became about *sin management* rather than discipleship. Forgiveness of personal sins and the promise of heaven became the core message of the Gospel. This grew out of Calvin’s view of the depravity of humanity and their inability to respond to the message that produces faith (Romans 10:17).

To restore the original Gospel and God’s intentions for ministry, the church must once again have burning hearts ignited by the explanation of Scriptures.

Now, look at Paul’s description of the Gospel in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4. Jesus is the *subject*, and thus, the focus of his Gospel. However, he uses the designation *Christ*, that is, the Jewish Messiah. Leroy Lawson confirms that there were many revolutionaries in the first century that appealed to Jewish patriotism and religious fervor, announcing themselves as the Messiah (*Matthew: Unlocking the Scriptures for You*. Standard, 1986, p. 283). The question is, which messiah is God’s anointed. Paul identifies him as the one who:

1. Died ***according to the Scripture***
2. Was buried
3. Raised ***according to the Scriptures***

The conclusion: Jesus as Messiah is the focus of the Gospel. He who was the hope and fulfillment of Israel's story and the only one that could achieve what Paul ultimately concludes in v. 17, "if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins." You see, it matters **WHO** was raised. God's uniquely qualified Son is the only hope.

Finally, Paul reduces the gospel to three elements when he told Timothy to remember Jesus.

1. He is identified as the Messiah
2. He is risen from the dead
3. He is a descendant of David

Paul further identifies Jesus as “God and Savior” who redeems and purifies His disciples who will be zealous to serve King Jesus (Titus 2:14). Thus, remission of sins is to make us clean enough to serve as **Royal Ambassadors** for **King Jesus**. As Ambassadors, we are *commissioned to* ***GO …****!*

The Correct Message

Based on what we've said about the Great Commission, the correct message is Jesus. Pay attention to the order of the books in the New Testament. First, you have 4 accounts of various aspects of his birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension. These four accounts give us a description of the person and nature of Jesus. The gospels are intended to convince us that the one who died, was buried, and rose again he is God's anointed. Let me illustrate this in the way Paul describes his gospel in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4. To be read correctly, the emphasis would be placed on the subject, which is Christ. After Paul identifies the subject of the chapter, he then defines who this Christ is that separates him from all other Messiah contenders. Which Christ is it? It is the one who died, according to the scriptures, was buried, and resurrected according to the scriptures. The key expression in Paul's statement is “according to the scriptures.”

This message is confirmed in the book of Acts. Study the speeches of Christians presenting the gospel to non-Christians, and you will see that they do not focus on personal sin are going to heaven. Rather, all of these messages are focused on who Jesus is. Paul helps us by giving a summary of the gospel in Romans 1. Allow me to outline the major elements of Paul's gospel. Let’s start in Romans 1:1-4. Jesus was

1. Promised beforehand through the prophets
2. Born of a descendant of David, according to the flesh
3. Declared the son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead

**Burning Hearts**

“Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself … Were not our hearts ***burning*** within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?” (Luke 24:32)

Luke recorded the encounter two men had with Jesus. Once they recognized Him through the breaking of bread, their response defined the impact that meeting Jesus should have on us. They demonstrated that discipleship is about having a burning heart as we hear Jesus, beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, explain the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

Discipleship is not a status achieved after someone is saved. Rather, it is a burning conviction that Jesus is God’s anointed Messiah, the “descendant of David according to the flesh, who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead” (Romans 1:3-4).

If the church is to get out of the pew and become **Royal Ambassadors** for King Jesus, there must be a major shift in thinking about what it means to be His disciple. If the church is to ***go*** **…,** it must first reignite its passion for who Jesus is. It is more than a message of someone dying. It is a message of *God with us*. It is a message of the word sharing flesh and blood with us. If the church is to ***go*** **…,** it must learn the correct message and that will create the passion to ***go*** **…**.

The change in our basic assumptions begins with an understanding of the ***Great Commission*** and the ***message*** that satisfies that command.

The Commission Explained

Most in the church have heard a sermon or a lesson on the Great Commission. They've been told that the main verb is to make disciples. This verb is supported by three participles. I understand that most didn't like English and school and hope to leave it at school when they graduated. I don't need to give you a major lesson, but participles are pretty easy to understand. Think of them like an adjective. That is, they describe something. So, the three participles are describing something. Let's see how Jesus described the one who is making decisions.

1. **Going.** Like the disciples in Acts 4, you have to leave home (and the church) to make a disciple. Going does not have to mean a mission field or Bible college and then taking a church. Rather, going just means living your life, your daily routine. Jesus expects us to talk about him on a daily basis. He would anticipate that we would love him and be excited enough about him that he would be a major topic of conversation with friends, family, and colleagues. This would also include people who service us at stores and restaurants, or anywhere else where we come in contact with people. Think about it, you have no problem talking about your favorite ball team or restaurant. It's not hard to talk about someone you love.
2. **Baptizing**. Baptizing describes a person who understands that after someone is introduced to Jesus and they make a conscious decision to follow him, designing to learn how he would expect them to live and act. When that person makes that decision, they are a disciple. Now, they need to come into close contact with Jesus. The Bible uses the concept of “in Jesus.” The baptism transfers this new disciple from the authority of the dark Kingdom (Colossians 1: 13-14). We live in slavery in that dark Kingdom under the control of the one who holds the fear of death over us, that is, the devil (Hebrews 2: 14-15). This transfer is empowered by the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. In baptism, we participate in these historical events (Romans 6: 1-5). The rest of that chapter is about living as a slave under the authority of righteousness. This righteousness, of course, is Jesus.
3. **Teaching.** The baptized disciple is now in possession of the Holy Spirit and will be able to learn all that Jesus commanded. You see, as we stated above, having gone through the baptism, the disciple has made a conscious decision to come under the full authority of king Jesus. Lord is the most commonly used description of Jesus from acts through revelation. He is designated Lord more often even than Christ. He was coronated and now sits at the right hand of the father, a position from which he serves as head over the church.

As you can see, Jesus did not command us to baptize someone for the remission of sin so they could go to heaven. Someone is made a disciple by being introduced to Jesus and then making a conscious decision to commit their life in service to him. This is what redemption means. Redemption in its fullest expression means that you were bought out of slavery from an abusive master to be made the servant of a new master. We were brought from slavery to sin into the Kingdom of the beloved son, whom we serve.