

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:11-15**  
**(Mt 28:18-20; Mk 16:15-16; Lk 24:45-48; Jn 20:21-23; Ac 1:7-8)**

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**PRELIMINARY REMARKS: As a church...**

- **Week after Mission Conference:**
  - Great week.
  - Here you are stuck listening to another guy with funny foreign accent...
- **Week before Easter:**
  - Sometimes called Holy Week bc walks through momentous week in Jesus's life.
  - Invite you to join us Thur/Fri/Sun as remember events that make Xnty best news in entire world.
- **Sermon today serves as a bridge between the two → Mission Conference/Easter.**
  - As I share, want to share something that God's been stirring in me.
  - More on that in a moment → First, let's **pray**.

**CONTENT: Why is our church so passionate about mission?**

- No doubt that we are!
  - **Locally:**
    - Support ~50 ministries/organizations throughout Knoxville → homeless, addicted, students, special needs, refugees, foster kids.
    - Give ~\$1M to these partners AND engage personally in their work.
  - **Globally:**
    - Have partners in 40+ countries around world → church planting, youth ministry, media ministry, translation, refugees, leadership development.
    - Give ~\$3M to these partners AND engage personally in their work.
- It's a BIG THING for us!!!
  - Not something that we think is nice cherry on the top.
  - Central to our DNA → Central to who we are.
- But WHY?!?!
  - As I walked through Mission Conference, two reasons crystalized in my mind.
  - Here they are:

**1. We are passionate about mission bc → God's Word COMMISSIONS Us**

- Seems like right place to start...
  - If new, should know that we think we're under authority of this book.
  - Believe it's God's Word and that it therefore has authority over what we do.
    - Makes sense, right?
    - If this is God's Word → What he has to say to a people he deeply loves...
      - It really doesn't matter what *I* think...
      - Gently suggest it doesn't really matter what *you* think...
      - *All* want to joyfully align ourselves with what *he* has to say.
- Went to Eye Doctor recently → Told me, get these lenses and you'll be able to see 20/20.
  - What if I said:

- “No, I disagree... I can kind of see – as long not driving at night, looking at my computer, doing pretty much any task – I’ll go without lenses, I think my way is better.”
    - “That prescription... That’s really inspiring... I’ll keep it in my back pocket and maybe I’ll use it one day.”
  - That’s not how it works!!!
    - I have to align myself with the doctor’s word.
    - Then I won’t be half-blind but will be able to see this world.
- It’s the same with God:
  - In Bible, he tells us he loves us/shows us how to live in response to his love.
  - We joyfully put ourselves under the True Doctor’s authority.
  - Believe that following him is best/only way to make it through this world!

**Transition:** And part of his prescription is that we should be passionate about mission.  
*In his word he commissions us to be so.*

**#1: Mt 28:16-20 (METHOD)<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>16</sup> Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain... <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> **Go therefore** and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

**#2: Mk 16:14-16 (MAGNITUDE)**

<sup>14</sup> [Jesus] appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at table... <sup>15</sup> And he said to them, “**Go into all the world** and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. <sup>16</sup> Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”

**#3: Lk 24:36, 45-48 (MESSAGE)**

<sup>36</sup> Jesus himself stood among them... <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, <sup>46</sup> and said to them, “**Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead,** <sup>47</sup> and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> **You are witnesses** of these things.

**#4: Jn 20:21-23 (MODEL)**

<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, **even so I am sending you.**”

**#5: Acts 1:6-8 (MEANS)**

<sup>6</sup> So when they had come together... <sup>7</sup> He said to them... <sup>8</sup> **You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

- The last thing you say to someone is important:
  - My teen drivers about to leave house, I say, “You’re driving precious cargo...”
    - Want them to know they’re precious to me...
    - Have to look after themselves on the road...

*Imagine I said it 5x...*

- Or maybe you remember last words loved one said to you before they died?
  - You play these words over in your heart/mind.
  - Take on special meaning and become important to you.

***Imagine they said those last words 5x...***
- Here we have the last words of Jesus...
  - You are precious *to* me...
  - So go and live *for* me...

***And he does repeat himself 5x!!!***
- We should be passionate about mission → God's Word Commissions us to be so.

**Transition:**

- But there's a second reason that crystalized in my mind...
- We are passionate about mission bc → God's Word Commissions Us... AND...

**2. We are passionate about mission bc → God's Love COMPELS Us**

- Again, we could look a bunch of passages...
- But here's one that clearly makes the point → **2 Cor 5 (NIV):**

<sup>11</sup> Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others... <sup>14</sup> **For Christ's love compels us**, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. <sup>15</sup> And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

- Mission not just matter of obedience to God's Word → Joyful response to God's Love.
    - We live for him who lived/died/lives again for us.
    - This is what fuels our obedience – our mission – on this earth.
  - As Tobie Meyer taught last week, we serve in response to the King's choice/love/grace.
  - As our mission statement says – all we do is in response to his love.
    - And we serve the world bc of how Christ has served us.
    - We love others bc of how Christ has loved us.
  - Not just something we *have* to do, something we are *compelled* to do.
- We are commissioned and compelled to love this broken world.***

**CONSEQUENCE: This truth has been stirring my heart...**

- Can we have some honest talk? Might be pastor confession time...
  - Sometimes I get skeptical (maybe even cynical?) about church.
    - I don't mean about you, dear ones...
    - I love you, and I love being pastor of this church.
  - I more mean the machine/business that's part of Evangelicalism.
    - Asked to write book, speak at some fancy conference, grow social media following, build a bigger platform.
    - At no point does anyone mention the poor let alone the name of Jesus.
  - Some of you have shared a version of same thing → find yourself wondering what's this "church thing" all about?!?!
    - Is it some social club or, worse, some voting block?
    - Are we here to be nice/respectable people who have chance to network?

- And then this truth stirs my heart → No, dear ones, we are here bc...

**By God's Word and God's Love:**

**We are commissioned and compelled to love this broken world.**

**Illustrate:** You see how this truth has been stirring in me?

- India → Church at its very best...
- Mission Conference → Happening all over world...
- Then I come here – we pray/sing/hear his Word → Welcome New Members/Communicants into our church – God is on the move here too...
- Nashville → Still more to do.

**Apply:** And this is something I can give my life to.

***We are commissioned and compelled to love this broken world.***

- This is something we can ALL give our lives to.
  - Don't just invite God into our lives.
  - We get caught up in his...
- Beauty of Jesus stirs in our hearts then flows to all in need.

**Transition:** What does this look like in our lives?

- All sorts of things, no doubt!
- But as transition from Mission Conf./Easter, let me give **one suggestion** for this week.

**CLOSE:** Daniel Bartz – “Your One”

- Why not invite that person to join us this Easter?
- Or invite them to a week in our upcoming series: *You Asked for It...*
  - Bible – How do we know we can trust it?
  - Suffering – How could a good God allow it?
  - Justice – What is it?
  - Tolerance – Are Christians intolerant?
  - Work – How do we please God between 9-5?
  - Heaven – What happens when we die and what will heaven be like?

**CONCLUSION**

- Why are we so passionate about mission? What's this “church thing” all about?
  - Not trying to build our own platforms...
  - Not a social club, voting block, or a professional network...
- We are men/women, boys/girls, young/old who are ***Commissioned and compelled.***  
***Let's all start with our one and go love this broken world.***

## RESOURCES AND ENDNOTES

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### Resources

This list contains some of the resources that were used to prepare this sermon series. Check them out if you want to dig a little deeper.

- Arthur Davis, *The Great Commissions, Plural*.
- Kurt Nelson, *5 Charges of the Great Commission*.
- William Hendriksen, *Exposition of the Gospel According to Mark*.
- Logos Bible Software.
- Timothy Tennent, *Why Are We Commanded to Make Disciples of All Nations?*

### Endnotes

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<sup>1</sup> The “M’s” come from Kurt Nelson’s article, *5 Charges of the Great Commission*, accessed [here](#) 3/30/23.