

12-28-25 Message

Mon, Dec 29, 2025 11:29AM 42:23

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Great Commission, BMV scam, Reformation, church metrics, salvation, faith growth, Bible study, denomination influence, gospel preaching, signs and wonders, Acts of the Apostles, ministry of reconciliation, grace commission, ambassadors for Christ, dispensation of grace.

SPEAKERS

Speaker 1, Pastor Dow Boyer

This week I got a text message, and it was from the Bureau of motor vehicles. Anybody else get those text messages? Okay, alright, you're my people. It's great. So I got this, and so I clicked. I was like, why is the BMV contacting me? And they said that there was a toll that was unpaid, and it was \$6.90 wasn't that big a deal. So I was like, Well, I do a lot of traveling, so you know, it's probably legit. And I was like, Wait a second, but the BMV really text me and tell me, I have 24 hours to pay this. And so I was like, it's only \$6.90 there's a little wrestling back and forth, but I'm pretty frugal. So so I got onto my BMV account, and I thought, Well, surely, if I owe them \$6.90 it'll have a little warning up there. And there was nothing there. So I was like, hmm, I know what's going on here. So then I make a phone call to the BMV, and their office was closed for the holidays. And you know, I've got this 24 hour thing, but I listen, and as I'm listening to the voicemail and telling me the holiday hours, it says, Beware of scams. There is a text scam that's going out right now, and it was like, Aha. You've ever felt like you won? Have you felt like you didn't get my \$6.90 Starbucks did, but you didn't. And so I felt, I felt in my heart, I was like, Yes, I knew that was a scam, and I felt validated that it was scam because I did a little bit of research, right? And so I'm hoping today will kind of be one of those feelings for you today, right? You know, back when we go back to you go clear back to, like, the Reformation and different things that like that. It was eventually people stepped up, and they said, I should be able to study this for myself, and not just have a denomination or somebody tell me what it says. And I think that today, not intentionally, but a lot of us almost kind of feel scammed a little bit, because our eyes get open and we're like, Man, I believe that for all these years, and I never researched it. It was like \$6.90 so I just thought that, well, the church is all agreeing with it, so I'm just going to do it right. And so today is one of those days where I've kind of had a burr in my saddle a little bit over the last few weeks, and some conversations I've been having, and I thought this is a good time to talk about this, because it's the end of the year, and this is usually when a church will stand up and they'll post on the screens either this week or next week, all the success they had the year before. And I'm not saying there's anything wrong with that, but it will be tied to metrics that they will say was the Great Commission. That's how we determine how successful we were last year. You know, we're going to say how many people got saved and how many people got baptized and that. And you will find that 1000s of churches across America over the next couple of weeks. And again, my goal today is not to denigrate anybody, not to, not to talk bad about anybody. That's not the intent. I just want to challenge us with, is that the right commission, and I will say this, that sometimes we'll just say, Yeah, but I mean, it's still all about people being saved and people growing in their faith. You can agree with that. And I'm like, Well, yeah, but the problem is, when we start

taking them in places in Scripture, and then we were purposely only doing part of that scripture, see what we do is we open up to people saying, you can just throw out whatever's not cool, whatever doesn't come together, whatever doesn't sound good, right? You can just take bits and pieces in the Bible, and because we have great numbers and great programs, everything that we must be doing something right. But we are warned in Scripture to not be tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine, by the slight of men, by cunning craftiness whereby they lie and wait to deceive. And my concern today is that there are a lot of people that are easily swayed because of the denomination, because of the programming, because of their church, and that if they had to stand on their own with just the word of God, they would struggle. And I was talking to Lonnie and Rachel the other day, I think it's yesterday, and I was talking about the I think I'm going to get this wrong, but have you guys ever seen one of those debates? It's like outnumbered, where there's like a circle of people around, and there's somebody right in the middle, and then they just keep coming in, and there's like a timer on the debates and stuff like that. And I probably called it the wrong thing, but does somebody prove that they're alive in here? Has anybody seen that before? Yes, okay, I didn't dream about last night. Didn't make it up. Great. All right, so I saw the one with Ali Beth Stuckey, and I watched the thing, and I thought, Okay, this is interesting. And what I quickly realized is most people cannot sit in that hot seat and give an answer for what they believe, and so eventually they're just going to walk away from their faith. And I told Rachel's like, I don't think my kids. Have sat in that seat and answered those questions. And I thought there, I thought ally actually left some stuff on the floor that she could've pulled but she held her own there, but, but what I noticed is, is that everybody else in that room had done their research. And sometimes we just feel like, well, we're we're right. We don't really have to do our research. We don't really have to dig, and we are not prepared to give an answer when somebody asks us of the reason of the hope that is in us with meekness and fear. And so I want to kind of go through this today. My goal today is not to say, throw out the Great Commission. That is not so if you're already getting ready to leave, don't and I know it's a different kind of lesson, but it is important for this time of year. So I just want to ask some questions. You don't have to be a Greek scholar or anything like that. Let's just make some observations. Let's not just accept a phrase, and let's not just do this phrase because the church has been doing it for so long. Let's just ask some questions. And I think that that should be what you do when you go home. You should never just take what I say and not go home and look at it right. It was the Bereans who were more noble than thessalonians. Why? Because they heard what Paul said. They went and researched those things, and then they went back. Right? I'm hoping that you guys are all comfortable doing that. We live in a day and age where you all have a Bible, your faith and your growth should not be dependent just upon what I can do on a half hour on a Sunday morning, you should be in the Word. You should be studied. You should see if the things I'm saying are biblical, if they are true, right? And so this is one of those things that I bet you've probably never questioned, you've probably never researched, because it sounds great. Let's take the Gospel to all the nations and make disciples, and that overall goal is awesome. Sounds good. But you've never really questioned the context would be my guess, he really not looked at what was going on, why the author was saying, what he was saying, and what the context was, as far as what was going on. I just want to bring this into context, and then I want to challenge this at the end, to say, Should we be saying this, or should it be something else that we should be doing, and it's really quiet in here. It'll probably be that way for a little bit. So it was a long intro when you read, or if you research on like, got questions, and I tried to do some different things here. So they'll tell you. Throughout the book of Acts, we see how the apostles began to fill the Great Commission as outlined in Acts one through eight. This is probably what I was taught in Bible college. Jerusalem is evangelized. Acts one through seven. Then the spirit expands the church through Judea and Samaria. Acts Eight through 12. Finally, the Gospel reaches into the ends of the earth. Acts 13 through 28 then it says, Today, we continue to act as ambassadors for Christ. We plead on Christ's behalf to be reconciled to God. Second, Corinthians 5:20 it's interesting there, because I think they are mixing two things together here. I think that's what happens a lot with scripture. I think that people take a shopping cart and they grab stuff off of the shelves that they really like, and they put it in their

cart, and they walk out and they're like, Hey, I love my faith. I think there's a lot of that. I think there's a lot of eating off two tables, Israel's table and the body of Christ today and trying to mix them both together, I think we have to rightly divide and not just pick and choose the things that sound good, or we are going to be in a world of trouble when we're ever challenged now. So what? Where did the grace? Where did the Great Commission come from? Well, the most information you can get is there was a guy by name, Baron Justinian von wells. And in 16 he lived 1621, through 1668, but he came up with something called the Jesus loving society. And this was kind of the concept behind the Great Commission, is that we need to take the gospel out. It needs to hit the nations. I don't think he really coined the phrase, but it was the idea of the Great Commission that he made famous. But really where the term came from, and the person who made it popular was Hudson Taylor, and when he was doing the China inland mission, which would have been 1866 so our Bibles, when we open them up and we get to that section, there's usually a little usually a little header above these Matthew 28 verses that says, The Great Commission, that part was not part of the original scriptures. In fact, that terminology wasn't, and you can't really find the terminology till the late 1800s and so it's, you kind of gotta think through some things. Sometimes our Bible, it'll characterize things, it'll summarize some things, but sometimes it leads you to believe that this phrase has always been used. So I just want to go through it a little bit today. And there are pieces of this. You really need all four gospels in Acts one, to tie it all together what was being said. So that's what we're going to do today. And then we're going to test it. We're. Sound fun. If it doesn't sound fun to you today, trust me, by the end of this thing, you're going to know it a little bit. You're going to at least be able to research on your own. Matthew 28:19 and 20 says And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go, that's the big part. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them. The people that you're going to observe all things whatsoever. I have commanded you and lo, I'm with you alway, even until the end of the world. Amen. So this is primarily your great commission. Everybody in here has probably heard these verses. There are churches in the area. They're part of the coalition for this. So I understand this is the pretty important verses. Now, this is the first time Jesus gave this group a commission, if you will. In fact, you can go back into Matthew chapter 10, and you would see that he gave them the commission. What was that commission? It was to go and it was to tell them not to go to the Gentiles in Matthew chapter 10. It was given specific instructions. Now things are a little bit maybe further along, and so you're like, Okay, well, yeah, he's risen from the grave, so obviously things have changed today. Well, first of all, who was he talking to? You always have to ask that question in the Bible, who was talking? Where were they talking from? What was the reason they were talking? You know, you go through these seven W's, if you will, right? And so we start asking these questions in Matthew 28:16, through 18. Leading up to those verses, it says the 11 disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them, and when they saw him, they worshiped him. But some doubted, and Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. So this commission was given to the 11 on the mountaintop. And of course, he's telling them go teach, baptizing in the name of the Father Son, the Holy Spirit, and observe all things Jesus had commanded them. There's a lot of things that were commanded in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, and the majority of it is not being executed today, but we will say, Go and make disciples, and we'll reference these verses. Why are we ignoring parts of this? Wouldn't it be considered rebellion, or maybe even just sin, to directly say, I'm going to disobey God? Why are we not doing all of this commission? Well, let's find out what the other places say. Math. How about Mark 16:14, and 16. We'll start those three verses. First, it says afterward, he appeared unto the 11 as they sat at meat and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart because they believe not them which had seen him after he was risen, and he said unto them, Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel. So the first thing he didn't use gospel in Matthew, but here it says, preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. He that believeth not shall be damned. So this is all part of that great commission. So wouldn't you have to say that really execute the Great Commission today? You definitely would have to be baptized to be

saved. But there's more Mark 16:17, through 18. This is funny, right? I'll say it's funny because I'll tell you some things I was taught previously, but start in verse 17, and these signs shall follow them that believe in my name. Shall they cast out devils. They shall speak with new tongues. They shall take up serpents. If they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them. They shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover. Says, this was part of it. Well, hold on, it's just about preaching the gospel. It's just about going and it's about making disciples. Why are we ignoring this part? And what's funny is, you do some research, and then you'll see things like, well, these two verses weren't part of the original text because they're in a hole. It's like, why aren't I doing these things right? Why are we not executing these things? Why are we? Why do we not have the whole church out there doing these things? Well, it wasn't part of the Authorized Version. That seems like a cop out to me. Think about how we look to an unbeliever when they start asking these questions. What answers do you give? What. Oh, hey, it's just really all about going to make a disciples. So what do you do about if you grab a serpent, it will not hurt you. What do you do about laying hands on the sick and they shall recover? What do you do about these, these signs? Oh, well, hey, they those weren't part of the authorized scriptures really. Well, what else wasn't you start casting so much doubt when you start excusing God's Word. Now we do know that in the when the kingdom of heaven is here and we got lions and lambs laying next to each other, we do see the incident with Paul with of course, that was earlier in his ministry. By the end, he couldn't even get a thorn removed from his flesh. But things started changing. Acts as a transition book. Now, here's what's interesting. Mark did use the word gospel. Here's the other times he used the word gospel. Mark one, one, the beginning of the gospel of Jesus, Christ, the Son of God. Mark 11:4, now after that, John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God. This is Mark using the word gospel. It's just an observation here, right? 11:5 saying The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent you and repent ye and believe the gospel. Mark 13:10, is an interesting one. It says the Gospel must first be published among all nations. Jesus still alive, and in that context, is talking about the tribulation, and he's telling them about rumors of wars and things like that. But he says, but don't worry, because the gospel must first be published among all nations. At this point, Jesus hadn't even gone to the cross Mark 14:9. Verily, I say unto you, wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done, shall be spoken of for memorial of her. This was a story about the alabaster box. So he's calling that gospel just means good news. So it that has nothing to do even with the gospel of the kingdom. But he's saying this gospel, this story about this woman who has given their alabaster box and and has sacrificed so much and has put ointment on the Savior's feet, and then Mark 16:15, go you into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. What you don't see, especially from Mark 13 and Mark 16:15, is any difference? Terminology is there? It's preaching this gospel. It would have been an audience who would have understood it's the same gospel that we've really been talking about throughout the book of Mark. There wasn't something, Hey, there's this new thing to go say. It's interesting. Well, Acts one eight. Let's move into that. He says, But you shall receive power after the Holy Ghost has come upon you. You shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and in Samaria unto the uttermost parts of the earth. And the excuse, I think, that we give there, is that, well, in the early parts of Acts, they took care of those places. So now we're just in a period of time where it's the uttermost parts of the earth. So it's how we excuse ourselves from going to Jerusalem, Judea and in Samaria, although it was specifically to 11 that he said that to but when you go back to Mark 16, since we're there in Acts one, nine, the very next, verses of those two things say this. So then Mark 16:19, through 20, after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth and preached everywhere. The Lord working with them and confirming the word with signs following Amen And again, people just say, Well, the book of Acts is transitional book. And I would agree with that. Acts one nine, when He had spoken these things, they beheld he was taken up in a cloud, received Him out of their sight. So clearly what was said in Acts one eight. What was said in these Mark 16 verses, he immediately went and ascended right after that. So this would have been his communication to the 11. So what did Luke say? Luke, chapter 24 starting verse 46 and said unto

them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sin should be preached in His name among all nations beginning at Jerusalem. So repentance and remission of sins, Ye are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you, but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem until you be endued with power from on high. Again, taking all the accounts to summarize this into one statement. And John actually has a little bit too in John chapter 20, starting in verse 19, it says, Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week when the doors were shut, where the Disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews. Came Jesus and stood in the midst and said unto them, peace be unto you. And when he had so said, he showed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad when they saw the Lord. Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you, as my father hath sent me, even so I send you now listen to this. When he had said this, he breathed on them and said unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost. Whosoever sins you remit, they are remitted. Unto them. Whosoever sins you retain, they are retained. The 11 he said, we're going to be given power to forgive sins as part of this commission. Now, when you tie all this together, and you want to reference, we're just we're a Matthew 28:19 and 20 church. We're a church that's tied to the Great Commission. I would say that there's probably 75% of that commission you don't do, and you're not doing, and you're not preaching, you're not teaching even the part where Jesus said observing all things that I have told you, right? There's nobody keeping the Sabbath. There's nobody standing up from the pulpit saying, you have to be circumcised in order to be saved today, right? There's nobody sitting there for the pulpit and saying, let's keep all these Jewish days immediately after all this happened, they go straight into the day of Pentecost. Why are we only doing parts of this commission, if this commission is what's for us today, and then what precedent do we set on all of scripture when we just want to take the things that sound good and just ignore the rest that should concern us today. Can you defend that? If somebody were to say, why aren't you doing this? What answers do you have? Well, those verses weren't supposed to be in the Bible. Well, there was a change here, over here, and really you're just going to be left looking stupid because you have made things a lot more difficult than they needed to be, because the Great Commission was nothing more than Jesus saying the kingdom is going to be offered to you Israel, we are going to pick right up where we stopped. It's just now I truly am the Messiah. I've proven it. So go preach that to the Jews, because one day, the Gentiles will be blessed through the nation of Israel, and Jesus will sit on the throne in Israel. That was preparation for all of that. Nothing had changed. We're looking for a change that isn't there, and if there was a change, then you would think he would probably give a new message. And by golly, he did. Chose a new person, not one of the 11, to give instructions for the body of Christ today, showing how there's no difference between Jews and Gentiles now, telling us that we don't have to observe all these things with that the law and everything written in it was hammered to the cross. It is important that we understand these things. But before we kind of get to, well, what should we be saying? What should we be doing? Because the promise is still, I want to see people saved, and I want to see people grow. I don't disagree with that, but if you're trying to say this back here, then you're going to find yourself in a pit of trying to answer questions you will not have an answer for of why you're not doing them. There is a better way, and it's my challenge today. But let's just talk about Acts chapter two, they were given this so called Great Commission, and now they're executing it right, and so Acts chapter two, it's the day of Pentecost. It's the it's when you're going to have these, these tongues on fire. People are going to be able to understand their own language. Let's just look at a few of these verses, starting in verse five, and there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, well, it makes sense, because they were told to go to Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria, right? If they could not execute this in Jerusalem, how would they ever reach the nations so in Jerusalem, Jews, devout men out of every nation. Jews out of every nation. Sometimes we get wrapped up and we see the nations, and we think these were all the Gentiles. Paul reached all them. These were Jews out of every nation. Remember, they were scattered. We had captivity from Assyria, from 722, that was the fall of the northern kingdom. We had 586, that was the fall of the southern kingdom. They were spread out everywhere and all these different nations. He says here, as they've

made their pilgrimage into the day of Pentecost, he says they're dwelling at Jerusalem, Jews, devout men out of every nation under heaven. Remember he told them to go to other nations, because eventually the Gentiles. Through Israel. In Jerusalem, Jesus sitting on throne would be the Gentiles would be blessed through Israel. It's important that we understand that verses six through 11. Now, when there is noise abroad, the multitude came together and we were confounded, because every man heard them speak in their own language. Bunch of Jews and different nations speaking different languages. They were amazed and marveled, saying one to another, behold, are not all these which speak Galileans, how hear we every man in our own tongue wherein we were born, Parthians, Medes, Elamites, the dwellers in Mesopotamia and in Judea, Cappadocia, Pontius, Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia in Egypt and in the parts of Libya and serene and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, cretes and Arabians. We do hear them speak in our tongue the wonderful works of God. If you're still not convinced, Acts 22, when Peter is in his sermon, how does he start these four words in Acts? Chapter two, verses, 22 Ye men of Israel. It is important to understand what was being done straight out of Matthew, 28 and into these early parts of Acts and why there was a change in Acts, chapter seven, I believe, but by Acts chapter nine, you have a new one. That was a new apostle who was saved, and it was Saul of Tarsus. And with Saul of Tarsus, he was given a gospel which was not given to him by any man, when you read Galatians chapter one, but from the Lord Himself. Why do that? If the 11 are doing what they're supposed to be doing, and we seem to see in these early chapters, it would seem to indicate they're doing that. Why Paul? Paul had interactions with Peter, he had interactions with James, but he said, the gospel I preach was not taught of any man, but I received it directly from Christ. Now you're splitting hairs down. You're being mean. I'm not trying to be mean. What is the big deal about going and making disciples? There's not a big deal about seeing people saved. Now, the word disciples, though, is going to put you right back under the Jewish kingdom, but wanting to see people saved and growing in grace should be the goal, if we have it right there on the walls, right? And so you might say, then, well, how should we handle this? Well, I would say, by not cherry picking the Word of God. If you just rightly divide it, you don't have to cherry pick it. And really, to be honest with you, if you're saying it's the Great Commission, what are you saying about the other commissions Jesus gave in, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John? So you already are coming a little bit. So I would just say, come a little bit further. You already saying there's a difference. And you would say the difference is he rose from the dead. And I would say, Come a little further. You're getting closer, because what Second Timothy 2:15 says is Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not to be ashamed. Rightly dividing the word of truth or cutting straight the word of truth. You don't have to cherry pick it and then ask your and have a lot of people ask you questions. You questions. You just understand that, hey, this was Israel. They were given instructions they are going to be a light to the Gentiles. But that program was put on hold when Israel was set aside. Today, there's a new program. It's the body of Christ, and Paul gives us our instructions through Romans, through Philemon. So Paul gives instructions about how the body of Christ is to see all men saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. And guess what? I don't have to explain serpents, I don't have to explain the signs. I don't have to explain the repentance part and baptism part. I don't have to explain all of those things and why I'm not having people circumcised, why I'm not keeping the Sabbath, why I'm not keeping the Jewish feast. I simply understand that that was not for me. And you understand the danger when I'm just going to be in multiple programs, you're going to find it very difficult to defend your position without saying things like these scriptures shouldn't be here. I think that's dangerous. We're saying you can't trust the word of God that he hasn't supernaturally preserved it for us to have it today. So what is it today if we want to say something, and I know some people have said, probably to combat this, we have the grace commission today. I mean, I'm if you want to call it that great, we can call it the grace commission. I'm just saying. What do we do today to see people saved and come to knowledge of the truth? First of all, first, Timothy two, three and four, without me having to twist anything, without having to explain away anything, let's just take the word for what it says. First, Timothy two, three and four says this is good and acceptable in the sight of God, our Savior, who will have all men to be. Saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. And then

second, Corinthians, chapter five, verses 14 through 21 this essentially says, This is how you do this, and this is why you do this. This is the motivation behind it. And you'll find that in this passage is not a lot of the stuff that you have to explain away and the other ones, because it is a part of a different program, starting in verse 14 at Second Corinthians five, it says the love of Christ constraineth us. Our motivation today isn't about trying to keep the law. Now, when you love somebody, you want to live holy and you want to serve them, but not out of pressure of a law that you cannot keep. It's the love of Christ that constraineth us today. We thus judge, if one died for all, then we're all dead, and that if he died for all, which makes sense, if somebody had given their life so that you could live, wouldn't this be your response? It says He that died for all that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them and rose again. It should be logical if I've been saved, if I've realized I was a sinner, my sin separated me from God, and I had no hope in this world. That's kind of what Ephesians 2:11, and 12 is saying, right when I read that, and I understand that sin cannot be in the presence of God, but God committed his love toward us, and that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us, and I realized that Christ shed His precious blood on the cross, so even though I was a sinner, and the payment for my sin is death and eternal separation from God, that would be All that I would have to pay if I didn't put my faith in the payment that was paid for me, Jesus's blood, when he shed it on the cross, the father looked at that blood, and he says, There is no blemish. There is no reason for another blood sacrifice. Jesus died, rose again three days later, proving he's God wasn't just a man, right? But that blood was sufficient enough. And the father says, we don't need another sacrifice. If people will just place their faith and what I've provided for them, I've done the work for them, then they will be saved and be with Me in Heaven for all eternity. And if somebody's done that for you, which, if you're here today and you're saved, your motivation should be man. I'm not going to henceforth live unto myself anymore. Somebody paid a heavy price so that I can live and that becomes your motivation when you live in grace. And it says in verse 16, henceforth know we know man after the flesh. Yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now, henceforth, know we him no more. This says in verse 17, therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things are passed away. Behold, all things are become new. I think this is another one of those verses where it does not mean what you think it means. There's a lot of people that get saved. And guess what, I still have temptation. I still struggle. Wait a second. I thought all things were made new. The new is the new man. You're part of the body of Christ. That's the new creature that was made when you place your faith in there. Now it is true. You now have the Holy Spirit living inside you. You have now of a new nature, I get that, but I'm saying that that's really what he's talking about here. But then he says, all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ. Now listen to this. This really is where we kind of say the grace commission he's given to us, the ministry of reconciliation. We've been given a job, and that job is reconciliation. It's to take people far from God and bring them near to God by the cross. You've been given that job, not just this special 11, but the entire body of Christ has been given the ministry of reconciliation. To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them where there's no law, sin is not being imputed and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now, then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us, we pray you in Christ's stead, be reconciled to God, for he hath made him to be sin for us who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. These really are the verses. But then I'm going to back up a little bit here. He says, We are ambassadors for Christ. What is an ambassador? You know, we have one. The US has ambassadors to all these different countries. They represent America on foreign soil. It's interesting that Paul says you're an ambassador for Christ, but in Philippians three, it says that our citizenship is in heaven. See, there's a difference between the body of Christ and Israel. Israel is looking for an earthly kingdom. We are looking for the heavenlies, where we are seated, where all spiritual blessings are. Her. So we act as ambassadors on this earth, but we are heavenly citizens. So it's important to understand the difference there. So we see love of Christ, not law. We don't live for ourselves where there is no law. Sin is not imputed. We're ambassadors who have been given the ministry of reconciliation to see all men saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. I love what

Paul says in Ephesians, three, seven through nine. He says, whereof I was made a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power unto me, who am less than the least of all saints. Is this grace given that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ and to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God who created all things by Jesus Christ. See, Paul is saying, I'm revealing something that wasn't just passed down to the rabbis and eventually to the to the 11, but something that was kept secret before the world began this mystery. I like this quote by Joel Fink, and I know I gotta wrap this up, but it says, Only the Lord can bring someone to the point of decision. You'll never bring someone to the point of decision. That's not your job. The frustration in life comes from trying to do someone else's job. Our job is to be ministers of reconciliation, bringing the word of reconciliation. God's job is to bring that person to the point of decision. It's even Paul has a great passage of scripture in Corinthians where he talks about Apollo's watered. Paul planted or might have been another way around, but it says God gave the increase. And I'll close this by saying this, we do great damage to the Word of God when we pick and choose. I'm not attacking the premise behind wanting to see people saved and grow in their faith. Absolutely, we should do that. What I'm saying is we have to be very careful where we're taking people in Scripture to do that, because we are mixing programs and with that is very dangerous, and it can come with a lot of other things that you're mixing. What do we have to sell everything that we have. We hope you received a blessing from today's service. We would love to have you visit with us in person. For more information, please visit our website at GP indy.net, or contact us by phone at 317-535-3512, for more options to watch, just click on demand on the website. Until next broadcast, may God bless you. Is our prayer by saying we're a great commission church today, I would say we're sent to see all men saved and come to knowledge of the truth. I don't have to explain anything away. I have rightly divided it this or these are my marching orders, and you really can't pin me down with why I'm not doing all these other things, because they weren't for this program today. And I think that's really the best way I can explain this, because it's been brought up to me. Brought up to me a lot over the last few weeks. We want to see people come to the gospel of grace message and be saved, and then we want to see them grow in the grace doctrine, because it's for us today what it means to live under grace. We aren't picking and choosing. It's just the plain understanding what is for us today by rightly dividing the word of God. How many questions would you have now? Are you going to go down the list of the verses I gave and have a bunch of questions of why you're not doing that today? You won't because the plain reading of the text says this is what you're to do, and that's what we do. We don't have to explain it away. So this was different today, and if you're visiting, I promise it's not always like this. But in a world since covid, everybody says, I do my own research. My challenge, do your own research. Don't believe it because the denomination has told you, because you've always believed it for the last five decades, or because it's been drilled into you. I showed you a bunch of scriptures. I didn't even take you into the Greek. There are questions that have to be answered if you're going to just hang out in the Great Commission. And you tie all five of those together, you have to ask, why are we not doing that? Is this direct disobedience to God? Are we in rebellion to God by just discounting all these things that we're commanded to do? That's slippery slope, if you ask me. So my challenge today was just plain and simple. If you want to call it a commission, call it the grace commission today, and then find out where your marching orders is. It's still about seeing people saved and come to the knowledge of the truth, but be careful. You're not putting people back under the law just because it's attractive, just because it's been promoted, just because it is fancy, right? So let's all stand, put your rocks away, though not allowed to throw anything you. Right? Imma have everybody bow their heads. We're going to pray, and we'll sing a brief song, and then we will dismiss if you have had questions for a while about joining the church, or maybe you've been saved, and you want to know what your next steps are, we'd love to talk to you. We have people up front. Don's over here, and I think Kenny's making his way over here. So if you need to talk to somebody. I'll be available afterwards, but we are going to pray right now and then we're going to sing, and I'll dismiss you, Dear heavenly Father. I just thank you for this day, Lord. I pray that all those who are were in

attendance today or maybe watching online. I know this was a little bit different, but it is definitely one of those things that is going to be brought up a lot as churches reflect on what they've done this past year and what they're doing moving forward. So I thought it would be good just to see what your word plainly teaches. And Lord, we are thankful Lord that we don't have to explain away a bunch of things. We just understand that that was Israel. They had a specific program, and we're paused right now while you have revealed the body of Christ, but once we are raptured up, you're going to be dealing with Israel again, and that, and that new covenant is going to be executed, and that they're going to be doing your law obediently from the heart Lord, and that you're going to essentially make them do the law, and that they're going to be a blessing to all the nations the world's going to look much different in the kingdom. And Lord, we just we understand what Scripture is talking about. We also understand our place. So Lord, we thank You, Lord that you're we don't have to explain things away in scripture where there is an answer, and the answer is, we are in the dispensation of grace. We are ambassadors who have been given the ministry of reconciliation to see all men saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. That is our commission, that's all men everywhere. And I, and I definitely appreciate taking the gospel to the nations, but today it It includes the nations, includes everyone. It's about having all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery which was kept secret before the world began. And Lord, I pray that we'd be encouraged today we go back and study to see if those things were so that I said today, and Lord, that You would help us as a church, as we move into 2026 to be passionate about seeing people saved and come to knowledge of the truth. Lord, we love you and praise you. We just pray, be at the people now. Help them to finish the year out strong. And Lord, help us be excited about going in to do Your will next year in Jesus name amen.