

**GOOD NEWS IN A TROUBLED WORLD...**  
**TO KEEP PASSING ON**  
**Matthew 28:18-20**

You look around and what do you see...trouble all around. There is governmental trouble, financial trouble, economic trouble. People are hurting from all sorts of problems, crises and catastrophes. Recently the news has unfolded tornadoes in Oklahoma that has left many without home, without the comforts that we often know. Then you listen to all that is going on in the world, and there is terrorism, trouble and pain all around us. Life looks so bleak! So dark! So helpless! But the truth is looks can be very deceiving!

What must be remembered is this...all is not lost! All is not hopeless! All is not over! We may live in a land where there are massive problems, but this was exactly the way it was while Jesus was on the earth as well. Persecution, problems, pain, have always been a part of what is going on in this world. But we need to be reminded of some good news today and that good news is all the news we need to know...that we are to pass on!!!

**1. GOOD NEWS...THERE IS ONE WHO HAS ALL THE AUTHORITY IN HEAVEN AND EARTH....HIS NAME IS JESUS**

When you wonder what is going on in the world, and who is in control, and who has control of this world...we need to go back and remember and reread Matthew 28:18. Jesus makes one thing unmistakably clear... "All power is given unto me in heaven and earth."

Jesus didn't say he has a little power, some power, a lot of power. His very words are this, "All power is given unto me in heaven and earth". All the power of all the universe has been handed over to the Lord Jesus Christ. We are not living in a world that is controlled by Satan, we live in a world that is under the power of the Lord Jesus Christ. Right now we don't see that, but we are the ones in the dark, not Jesus. Jesus made it clear that his power was given to him by the Father...it is a given power.

Jesus power is not based on this world, or the happenings of this world. His authority was given to him by the Father...meaning that He has the power to rule and reign over this world...and some day we will see that fully and completely.

Jesus authority is over all the demons and the devil of hell. His authority is over all the power and principalities in the world. The events that had just preceded Matthew 28 was the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Don't you think that Satan would have loved to have kept Jesus dead. Don't you think that Satan would have loved to seen Jesus breath his last, never to rise again. But that didn't happen. All the demons in hell couldn't keep Jesus in the grave. The devil himself couldn't keep Jesus in the grave. Why?

Because He is God in the flesh! Jesus power is the power over all the universe. Even upon earth, you see demons tremble at the sight and presence of Jesus. You hear demons shudder and ask him not to torture them. Why do they do so...because He has all power. At the name of Jesus some day every knee will bow and confess Him to the glory of God the Father.

It may look at the present time that Satan is winning...but that is not the case. Jesus will some day have his way with the devil. The devil will be thrown into the lake of fire...and be done away with. Why because Jesus has all power. Listen carefully to Revelation 19:11, "*And I saw heaven open and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him called Faithful and True and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.* That is not a picture of a weak, humble Jesus, but one of might, and power...who will in the proper time do away with all wickedness, and Satan as well.

Satan wants us to believe through looking at the lens of the events of the world that he is in control. But if that is the case...why is it that people who turn to Jesus are freed from bondage, from the power of Satan...because the power of Christ is no match for Satan. When Jesus Christ rose from the dead that resurrection morning, he revealed that the forces, and powers of all darkness cannot defeat him...and that is a message that is needed today in the midst of a world of darkness. Some day according to God's Word, even Satan all the demons will bow before Jesus Christ who is the King of kings, and Lord of lords. *Philippians 2:10-11 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

**2. GOOD NEWS...THERE IS HOPE FOR MAN TRAPPED IN HIS SINS...HIS NAME IS JESUS.** We live in a world where people are trapped in a life of sin, because we are a world of sinners. We came from sinful parents...Adam and Eve. We follow their examples because we are sinners by both nature and choice.

Without the resurrection of Jesus Christ, there would have been no way for us to know the release from sin. But while Jesus was on the cross, He received the eternal wrath of holy God for all sin. Why? In order that we would not have to be shown wrath by God. When Jesus died, he who became sin, executed all our sin, and when He rose again, He gave us the privilege to receive His life.

Because Jesus has all authority and power, he can give to all who call on Him new life, eternal life, everlasting life. In spite of a world that is steeped in sin, there is good news. There is hope for man trapped in his sins and the hope is Jesus. The command of Jesus in Matthew 28:19 is "Go make disciples in all nations". While the Great Commission was given to that first

generation, it is a commission that is given to each new generation, because each new generation is a generation that is born in sin and needs release from the bondage of sin. Why do we preach...because people are in bondage to sin and need a Savior! Why to we teach...because people are in bondage to sin and need to learn the freedom that we can have through Christ. Why do we have VBS, because children are born the same today just like yesterday...we are all born in sin and we need a Savior.

We are given a command as a church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

First...we are to go and evangelize. Just as Jesus is the good news and declared the good news...we too are to declare the good news...that Jesus can set lives free from sin. It was people trapped in a life of sin that Jesus set free...those possessed of demons, those who looked according to their times...hopeless. The hope for this world is Jesus...who has all authority in the very essence of His being. Therefore we ought to bear good news to others around us...and tell the good news. It means that you personally ought to know how to lead a person to faith in Jesus Christ. Wives you need to know how to lead your husbands to faith in Christ. Husbands you ought to know how to lead your wives to faith in Christ. Parents you ought to know how to lead your children to faith in Christ. Why? Because the command Lord is to “evangelize”, to tell the good news that there is complete forgiveness through Jesus Christ and eternal life through Christ. Jesus power is an eternal power...when you were saved, you were saved from a life of sin. You are saved from the fate and the penalty of sin, and you are kept by the power of Jesus. No demon in hell can take you away from the love of God...that was what Paul was convinced of.

Second...we are to do as Jesus did...He went out to seek and to save all that would willingly turn to Him. When Christ saw a person that was willing to repent of his sins, Christ attached himself to that person. “Attached” is the key word. Christ made disciples of men by attaching Himself to them. Let me ask you this...who are you attached to...developing that person into a disciple of Christ. Sadly, we live in one of the most unattached times. Yet, Jesus didn’t operate that way. He lived among the disciples, walked among the disciples, and attached himself to them. This week I want to challenge you as the church...to step up and attach yourselves to the lives of all the young people who come. Why? Because they are important to God! Why? Because every young person is a soul before God. Why? Because every young person wants a loving adult in their lives!

There is no question what our Lord’s commission is...we are to go...but more than just go, we are to “attach ourselves to those persons who will follow our Lord until they in turn make disciples”. Imagine this...during this week of VBS coming tonight...where do you think Jesus would be...right in the midst of the activity of boys and girls learning about Christ.

This is not only a message...this is a challenge, and a commission to you the church to be involved...like our Lord was involved in the lives of the disciples. Jesus didn’t call the disciples and then leave them alone. He was next to them, encouraging them, loving them, teaching them, training them, and that is His call to us. Wherever Jesus was, and where Jesus is preached...there will be a drawing by the Holy Spirit of God, He will see to that. *John 12:32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.*

**3. GOOD NEWS...THERE IS A WAY OF SIN AND BONDAGE...HIS NAME IS JESUS.** All that we do is as a church should be out of the overflow of a sobering and powerful truth...man is in sin, and man can’t get out by himself. We are the church of the Lord Jesus Christ given the message of the gospel of Christ to tell the to the world.

Man will never seek after God. Because man don’t know how to. The Bible says in *Romans 3:11, There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.* Did you hear those first words...none understand. Boys and girls don’t understand that they are trapped in sin...unless they are taught. The fact of every little boy and girl who comes to VBS this week is the story of a young person who was born in sin, and lives in a world of sin, and needs the forgiveness of God and the salvation of Christ for their lives.

“Trapped” is the reality of man’s condition. Nothing and no one can get man out of his sinful condition...none but Christ. What is worse, no one on the earth has ever sought after God...that is what God says. Wicked man doesn’t seek after holy God. It is the drawing of the Holy Spirit. Why do we do what we do in teaching, VBS, because souls are the most important think in the world. It is souls that live eternally in heaven or hell. It is souls that perish. It is man that lives forever with God or forever with the devil and his hellish host. In the sight of God...one soul that is more important than the whole world. Listen to Jesus words, *Mark 8:36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?*

It is better to lose the entire world than lose your soul...that is what Jesus declared. For when you lose your soul...you are lost forever and ever...with never another day of hope or happiness. The good news in a troubled world is this...there is hope...there help, and that help is eternal help, because it is Jesus Christ, the One who has all authority in all the universe. Our calling church, not only this week, but every day of every week, is to show a lost world the love of Jesus by our walk, by our lives, by our actions, by our behavior, and attaching our lives to others, to help them, to urge them on in their walk with God. Will you accept the command and the commission?