



“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...” Matthew 28:20

Church of Christ • 13800 S. 4080 Road • P.O. Box 527 • Oologah, Oklahoma 74053

The Mission of Christ

Chuck Northrop

Most people recognize Jesus Christ to be the greatest man to have ever walked upon the earth. Tragically, however, millions of people do not know His purpose in coming to this world though it is clearly revealed within the pages of the Bible.

When considering any mission, there are certain components. So it is with the mission of Christ. There must be a person sent to a place. In this case, Christ Jesus was sent into the world (John 1:14; 1 Timothy 1:15). There must also be a sender. Jesus said the Father sent Him (John 4:34; 5:36; 6:38). In addition, there must be a purpose, a charge, or an assignment. What purpose or mission did Christ serve?

Christ’s Mission Was to Save. While Joseph contemplated his marriage with Mary, an angel came to him in a dream and proclaimed, “she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). Later in His ministry, Jesus said, “For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost” (Matthew 18:11). John, the apostle, wrote, “he was manifested to take away our sins” (1 John 3:5).

Christ’s Mission Was to Minister. Jesus said, “Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28). Jesus ministers by giving His life (1 Peter 1:18-19), by providing abundant life (John 10:10), and by being a merciful and faithful high priest (Hebrews 2:17). For serious thought, consider: the greatest Man was a servant. Let us follow His example.

Christ’s Mission Was to Preach. Jesus told His disciples, “Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also: for therefore came I forth” (Mark 1:38). During His lifetime, Jesus revealed

His testament through His preaching which has been revealed to us through His apostles (Hebrews 9:16,17; John 14:26; Ephesians 3:5).

Christ’s Mission Was to Judge. “And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind” (John 9:39). While some accept the teachings of Jesus, others reject them and judge themselves unworthy of everlasting life (Acts 13:46). As a lawgiver, Christ’s words judge (John 12:48).

Christ’s Mission Was to Destroy the Works of the Devil. John wrote, “...For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil” (1 John 3:8). Jesus destroys sin and the punishment of sin, both of which are the works of Satan.

Christ’s Mission Was to Fulfill the Law. Jesus said, “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil” (Matthew 5:17). He fulfilled the law by keeping it perfectly (Hebrews 5:8-9), by completing its purpose (Hebrews 10:9,10), and by carrying out the penalty of sin (Hebrews 7:27).

Christ’s Mission Was to Establish His Kingdom. Jesus answered Pilate, “Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world...” (John 18:37). Jesus’ kingdom (the church) was established on the day of Pentecost in AD 30, and He currently reigns in heaven over His church/kingdom (Acts 2:29-35; Colossians 1:13).

When Jesus came into the world, He had a mission. He did not aimlessly wander through life. His mission affects each one of us. We cannot simply sit back and say, “What a wonderful mission!” His mission ought to move us to fulfill our own mission to “Fear God, and keep his commandments” (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

“In with the Wrong Crowd”

“I got in with the wrong crowd,” may be an effort to explain away our personal responsibility for our sins — or may express the situation accurately.

What you are is the main factor in determining the kind of friends you have. If the crowd is wrong, it is also true you must have already been wrong to become involved with such people.

It may be that you began a friendship with a group whom you did not know well. ***How can you tell if a group is the wrong crowd?***

One of the first indications can be found in the things they think are funny. If their idea of humor is a dirty joke or being discourteous to other people, it is a sure sign you are in with the “wrong crowd.” It is dangerous also when humor is turned to destructive activities. There is nothing really funny about destroying property or reputations.

The “wrong crowd” is marked also by impure speech. “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth...”

“Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil...”

Exodus 23:2

(Ephesians 4:29). Some of us would not think of violating this command ourselves but will tolerate the worst kind of language from our friends.

Lack of reverence and respect for worship and Bible class teachers. This is another characteristic of the “wrong crowd.” Do your friends encourage you to be reverent, courteous, respectful and faithful in worship and Bible class? Does our crowd speak lightly of going to worship and class regularly?

A sloppy, droopy, daredevil, reckless spirit. This attitude is always found in the “wrong crowd.” There is little respect for dignity of behavior, or even for good manners. In the “wrong crowd” every effort is made to impress others with the fact there are persons who will do as they like, regardless of others, right or wrong.

Your friends are the wrong crowd if they make it harder for you to be what God wants you to be. Do you find your interest in spiritual things decreasing when you are with them? If so, **do** something about it **now!** Surround yourself with Christians and allow their encouragement to bless you. Don’t wait till you get so deeply involved that all you can do is blame the “wrong crowd” for disaster in your life. Decide **now!**
– adapted

A Dirty Face Can Be Washed

Jesse Dickison

And the sinner can be cleansed by the blood of Christ. Hebrews 9:23 declares that “apart from the shedding of blood is no remission.” John states “...the blood of Jesus his Son cleanseth us from all sin” (1 John 1:7). No “cleansing agent” that we might devise could cleanse sins — only that which God has provided. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). Paul writes, “For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8).

Yet, just looking in a mirror does not wash a face and just studying the Bible does not bring God’s blessings. Notice what Jesus said in Luke 6:46, “Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things that I say?” Peter tells us that we “...purify our souls by obeying the truth” (1 Peter 1:22). It is when we see in the Bible God’s will for us and do it that God saves us (James 1:25).

The Bible as a mirror reflects our spiritual condition. It reveals God’s requirements for us, and we can see in our lives, whether or not we have met them. If we are “hearers only” and not “doers,” then “there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins” (Hebrews 10:26). If we are not obeying His teachings, we can only expect to hear Him say in the final day, “Depart ye cursed into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matthew 25:41b).

God promised a day of judgment when “each of us shall give account” (Romans 14:12). Study the Bible for yourself — know your spiritual state as He reveals it in His Word. Determine that you will be a “doer of the word.” Your eternity depends on it!

Observations and Concerns

July 19, 2023

Welcome Visitors! If you have questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Praise in Psalm: “O LORD our Lord, how excellent *is* thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens” (Psalm 8:1).

Declaration of Appreciation: With *heartfelt gratitude*, we give thanks for our Bible class teachers.

Summer Series — The speaker this evening is **Chuck Northrop**. Because of an infected tooth, Jesse Dickison is not able to be with us. This evening’s lesson is “*If Ye Be Reproached for the Name of Christ, Happy Are Ye*” (1 Peter 4:14).

Congratulations are extended to **Dan and Marcella Dennis**. They will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary this coming week on the 26th!

Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of **Amanda Georgakis** who recently passed away from cancer. She is a friend of the Carmonas.



Marcella and Dan Dennis

Remember in Prayer:

- ▶ **Sherry Carmona** had a knee replacement and is recovering well. It has been good to have her back with us.
- ▶ **Lynn Dilks** recently had cataract surgery on both eyes and is doing well. We are thankful for her successful surgery.
- ▶ **Ron Hass** recently had bladder surgery to remove cancer. We are grateful he is doing well.
- ▶ **Mark Odell**, cousin of Nelda Hudson, suffered a severe fall that resulted in facial injuries and two broken shoulders. He had surgery on both shoulders and is recovering at a rehab center.

Schedule of Services	Assignments			
		Wednesday, July 19	Sunday, July 23 AM	Sunday, July 23 PM
	Announcements	Chuck Northrop	Chuck Northrop	Paul Praschnik
	Song Leader	Doyle Jackson	Doyle Jackson	Ross Swearingen
	Prayer	Chris Nelson	Bill Dilks	Doyle Jackson
	Lord’s Supper (speaker)		Chris Nelson	Chris Nelson
	Lord’s Supper		Ross Swearingen	
Sundays	Lesson	Chuck Northrop	Paul Praschnik	Chuck Northrop
Bible Classes. . . 9:30 AM	Prayer / Door Attendant	Russ Earl	Paul Praschnik	Bill Dilks / Russ Earl
Worship 10:30 AM				
Worship 5:00 PM				
Wednesdays				
Bible Classes. . . 7:00 PM				
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