



Oologah  
**Observer**

“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**

## What Is the Mission of the Church?

Chuck Northrop

A mission is an assigned task, and there are myriad of missions various individuals and/or groups have been sent to accomplish. A secret agent may be sent by his nation to accomplish some covert operation in a foreign land. An army unit may be deployed on a peace-keeping mission. Or, a politician may be sent to a foreign government to conduct diplomatic negotiations. These are all various kinds of missions. Similarly, the church of the New Testament has a mission to accomplish. However, her mission is not an assignment by men but is assigned to her by God. Nonetheless, men have given various assignments to the church. Consider these:

Some have said the church exists to do good deeds. Certainly, the church, as opportunity is afforded to her, is to “do good unto all men” (Galatians 6:10). However, this is only partly true. The church does not exist only to do good deeds. The seeming dilemma lies in the definition. What is “good” to men is not always “good” to God. For example, men often tend to justify sin (John 3:19), especially their own sin or the sin of a loved one. The church, however, has the God-given responsibility to oppose sin. After convicting the churches of Galatia of returning to the “weak and beggarly elements,” Paul asked, “Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?” (Galatians 4:16). Nearly every book of the Bible convicts men of sin, and to many, this is not good.

Others say the church exists to do right. This is an honorable statement if the right standard of authority is recognized. Every religious, social, and civic group could make the

same statement. Even humanists and atheists could say such. However, is their standard from men or from God? Does the church exist to do right? Yes, but not according to just any standard. Because the church is commissioned by God, her standard is the Word of God, the Bible.

Still others say the church exists to have fellowship. Again, this is only partly true. Paul wrote, “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” (Ephesians 5:11). Christians are to have fellowship with God and with God’s people but not with the world (2 Corinthians 6:17-18).

Sadly, some folks mistakenly think the church exists to entertain or be entertained. For this reason, many churches hire “pep-rally” preachers along with “conscience-soothing” choirs. Rather than opposing sin and wickedness, anything and everything goes, and worship becomes a frolicking mass production.

What, then, is the God-given mission of the church? First, it is evangelism. Jesus said, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15). Second, it is edification which means to build up. Christians are to build each other up in the exhortations of the Lord. Paul wrote, “Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do” (1 Thessalonians 5:11). And, third, it is benevolence — doing good unto all men as opportunity is afforded (Galatians 6:10). Let us, therefore, fulfill our God-given assignments and do away with man’s preconceived ideas about the mission of the Lord’s church.

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## What Shall I Do to Inherit Eternal Life?

Douglas Hoff

Nearly two thousand years ago, three different men asked the most important question mortals should ask. The first two said the same thing – What shall I do to inherit eternal life? The third’s query was essentially the same, “What must I do to be saved?” After receiving the answer, the first went away very sorrowful. The second came desiring to test Jesus. Upon hearing the answer, this man tried to justify himself. It appears he, like the first, left without the desire to comply. The third rejoiced at the answer, obeyed the instructions and obtained eternal life.

The first man was a rich young ruler who came to Jesus. Luke 18:16, 23 shows he was a very rich ruler. Matthew 19:20, the parallel passage to Luke 18, shows he was a young man. It appears he was sincere in his desire to obtain eternal life. He asserted that from his

youth he had kept the commandments (Luke 18:20-21). Here was a man who obeyed God. However, Jesus pointed out riches were keeping him from entering the kingdom of God.

Though he was not inspired, this rich young ruler’s question accurately portrays man’s relationship to salvation. First, he said, “What shall I do...?” One must have a strong resolve to obtain salvation. His question was not phrased, “What might I do...?” Second he said, “what shall I do...” Salvation is appropriated personally. No one else can do it for you. Third, “What shall I do...” There are things which must be done for a person to be saved. It is not enough to believe in Jesus as the Son of God. Fourth, “What shall I do to inherit eternal life?” Salvation is the gift of God (Romans 6:23). An inheritance is not earned but given freely (Ephesians 2:8, 9). Sadly, this rich ruler failed on the third point. Though he desired eternal life, it was not strong enough to do what the Lord required of him.

The second man who asked “What shall I do to inherit eternal life?” was a certain lawyer (Luke 10:25-37). Since he came to test Jesus, he was not really interested in doing what was necessary to obtain salvation. Here was a man more interested in justifying himself than allowing God to justify him (cf. Romans 10:1-3). His heart was not willing to show love for an enemy (the Samaritan). As John wrote years later, “he who does not love does not know God, for God is love” (1 John 4:8). This certain lawyer failed on the first point mentioned in the previous paragraph. He did not have a firm resolution for heaven above.

The third man asked Paul and Silas, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” (Acts 16:29, 30). This Philippian Jailor passed the test on all four points since he did what the Lord revealed through his servants (notice Acts 16:31, 32 both use the pronoun “they”). He was told “believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household” (Acts 16:31). It has already been noted that something must be done to achieve the forgiveness of sins. Believing in Jesus as the Son of God is a work of God (John 6:28, 29; cf. 8:24). However, by itself, it will not save since “a man is justified by works, and not by faith only” (James 2:24). So, what else did the Jailor need to do? The answer is found by examining the rest of the text in Acts 16:32-33 – “then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized.” Since he was baptized, one can correctly infer he was taught the necessity of baptism (cf. Acts 8:35, 36). Yes, the Jailor needed to believe in Jesus, but he also had to be baptized to be saved (Acts 8:37; 1 Peter 3:21).

Nearly two thousand years ago, two men rejected the counsel of God (Luke 7:30). One embraced it and was saved. Only the Jailor loved the truth enough to inherit eternal life. How about you? Are you committed to do what God requires to be saved?

“He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding; but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.”  
– Proverbs 14:29

Observations and Concerns

October 11, 2023

Welcome Visitors! We are so thankful you decided to visit with us today.

Praise in Psalm: “Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting, and to everlasting. Amen, and Amen” (Psalm 41:13).

Declaration of Appreciation: For those who were involved in the selection and purchase of the new songbooks. Thank You!

Remember in Prayer:

- Sammy Gray will be having some medical tests conducted in the coming weeks.
- Andy Hudson is doing better after his car accident a few weeks ago.
- Stephanie Huckleby has had sickness in her family.
- Sandra Rowell, step mother of Landon Rowell, has been diagnosed with lymphoma.

Extended Prayer List: Jim Allison – health concerns; Ed Carmona – health issues; Joyce Cash – health difficulties; Dan & Marcella Dennis – health issues; Bill Dilks – cancer; Sammy Gray – health concerns; Nelda Hudson – heart struggles; Chuck Northrop – blood disorder; Vance & Darla Smith – declining health; Pat Taylor – health issues; Ed Dindy – cancer; Betty Jackson – health issues; Sam Orr – health concerns; LeAnna Shafer – chemotherapy; Jacob Webster – dog attack.

Azalea Gospel Meeting: October 22-25, Jamie Beller, Theme: “What Manner of Person We Ought to Be?”

Reminder: If you have news for the Oologah Observer, please give it to Chelley or Chuck before Tuesday morning each week.

Schedule of Services	Assignments			
		Wednesday, Oct. 11	Sunday, Oct. 15 AM	Sunday, Oct. 15 PM
	Announcements	Chris Nelson	Chuck Northrop	Ross Swearingen
	Song Leader	Doyle Jackson	Doyle Jackson	Bill Dilks
	Prayer	Bill Dilks	Bill Dilks	Doyle Jackson
	Lord's Supper (speaker)		Ross Swearingen	Doyle Jackson
	Lord's Supper		Chris Nelson	
	Lesson	Bill Dilks	Jeremy Northrop	Chuck Northrop
	Prayer / Door Attendant	Ross Swearingen	Chris Nelson	Ross Swearingen
Sundays				
Bible Classes. . . . .	9:30 AM			
Worship . . . . .	10:30 AM			
Worship . . . . .	5:00 PM			
Wednesdays				
Bible Classes. . . . .	7:00 PM			
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