



*Sermon Series—The Purpose of Your Existence*

*Part Four—The Great Commission*

**Matthew 28:18-20**

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*Objective Sentence:* Everyone can discover the purpose of their existence by embracing **FOUR GREAT DICTATES** revealing the Biblical Mandate of our creation.

**Introduction; Capture Time April 23:** The departure date for my first missions trip was approaching, but right before I left a series of events occurred which tested my faith. Mr. Johnson, the finance manager of our church walked through the office and said to me, “I hear you’re going to Haiti. Hope you’re not flying Pan Am. A jet crashed in Dallas yesterday and killed several people.” My tickets had just arrived so I looked at them and sure enough—I was flying Pam Am. One day I called the missionary who arranged the trip and his wife answered the phone. My friend wasn’t at home so I asked his wife what she thought about the country. Mrs. Missionary replied, “I hate Haiti that island is inhabited by a hostile bunch of thieves. You can’t depend on a one of them and you’d be a fool to trust anyone there.” After hanging up I thought, “I wonder how she really feels.” She truly discouraged me and on top of that, the reigning government of Haiti had been overthrown and several people had been killed in the rebellion. In spite of my grave concern I boarded a plane in Miami and headed for Haiti, believing the Lord was leading me. While preparing for take-off, smoke began pouring into the cabin, and the people panicked, trying to get out but the flight attendants got control and we were immediately evacuated. After three hours of waiting on repairs, we were put back on that same plane. We taxied to the runway only to return for more work and more bad news. We were now five hours late and Haiti’s airport closed at night. At that point I started to get off that flight. How could I get to the mission station in the middle of the night? What if the Haitian Pastor didn’t show up? All I had was an address—40 Delma Street—Porta-Prince. “Lord,” I prayed in silent fear, “if Pastor Sorrell is not at the airport, don’t let this plane leave Miami.” After some time we began moving and the pilot announced, “We’re cleared for take-off.” We made it to Port-a-Prince and everything inside the small airport was chaotic. I felt lost, not knowing one word of Creole. A

man claiming to be a taxi driver approached me. He spoke English and offered to transport me to my destination. The words of the missionary's wife echoed in my mind, "Don't trust anyone!" After going through customs I waded timidly into a crowd of noisy people outside the terminal. When I got in the middle of the throng I yelled, "Is Pastor Sorrell here?" Everyone got silent for a moment, looked at me, turned away, and resumed talking. The press of the crowd forced me towards the street and there I saw a little man holding a sign. When he saw me, the only white man in the crowd, he asked in broken English, "Are you Pastor Tuppin?" "Pastor Sorrel?" I asked. "Yes," He replied. I grabbed that little man and held him close. The weight of the world suddenly lifted from my shoulders. God is always there when you need Him.

- #1. The Great Commission** (*Matthew 28:18-20* Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the 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 things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
- A. Dr. Ron McManus:** The mission of the church is the Biblical reason for its existence .... The Preamble of West Coast Churches Constitution states, "We we exist for the purpose ... assuming our share of responsibility for propagating the Gospel of Christ by all available means to the world.
- 1. Make and Mature Believers** [*Pastor Dan:* For years I attempted to write a vision statement [job description] describing how we can fulfill our church mission. After writing page after page about vision the statement I came up with was clear as mud. Then I read a book which stated that the whole purpose of preaching [**the church, prayer, salvation, giving, serving—no matter where you serve—usher, greeter, nursery**] is making and maturing believers. The VISION of WCC IS MAKING AND MATURING BELIEVERS.
- a. Oswald J. Smith:** The Mission of the Church is Missions. *Pastor Dan:* So many today have the idea that church is all about them; but it's not; it's all about Him—Jesus and them—the ones who don't know Him. God has not established the church so you can enjoy its services; He established the church so you can be of service in it.
- b. Mark 16:15-18** Jesus said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. <sup>16</sup> He or she who believes and is baptized will be saved; but they who do not believe will be condemned. <sup>17</sup> And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; <sup>18</sup> they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."
- c. P. F. Bresee; founder of the Nazarene Church:** We are a debtor to every person to give him or her the gospel in the same measure in which we have received it. *Pastor Dan:* That which God has done in you; He desires to do through you. God did not forgive you just so you could be forgiven and not go to hell; He forgave you so that you could help others find forgiveness and not go to hell. God did not help you just so you could be helped; He helped you so you can help others receive help. **Romans 1:14 NLT** For I have a great sense of obligation [I am a debtor] to people in both the civilized world and the rest of the world, to the educated and uneducated alike ... to come to you in Rome, too, to preach the Good News

- d. *People often ask*, “Will those who have never heard the message of Jesus Christ go to hell? But that is not the question we should ask—we should ask if those who have heard the message of Jesus Christ and failed to give it to those who have not heard it can go to heaven?”
  - e. **Ezekiel 3:16-19** the LORD gave me a message. He said, <sup>17</sup>“Son of man, I have appointed you as a watchman for Israel. Whenever you receive a message from me, warn people immediately. <sup>18</sup>If I warn the wicked, saying, ‘You are under the penalty of death,’ but you fail to deliver the warning, they will die in their sins. And I will hold you responsible for their deaths. <sup>19</sup>If you warn them and they refuse to repent and keep on sinning, they will die in their sins. But you will have saved yourself because you obeyed me.
  - f. **Dwight Moody**: Every great movement of God can be traced to a kneeling figure.
- 2. Connect to Christ’s Cause** (*Pastor Dan: One person can make a difference; two people can make a big difference, but a church can make a world of difference.*)
- a. **Matthew 5:13-16** You are the salt of the earth [we lend flavor to life and preserve the world] so but if the salt has lost its ability to add flavor to life it is good for nothing except to be thrown out and walked on by the feet of men. You are the light of the world; let your light shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven.
  - b. **Acts 1:8** You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be witnesses....
  - c. **Oswald J. Smith**: Any church that is not seriously involved in helping fulfill the Great Commission has forfeited its biblical right to exist. No one has the right to hear the gospel twice, while there remains someone who has not heard it once.
  - d. **David Platt**: Every saved person this side of heaven owes a debt to every lost person this side of hell.
  - e. **Pastor Dan**: Your calling is to take away the hurt of others. A little care, a little love, a little kindness and a little taking an interest in people is as powerful as a great sermon; it is a move of God that will never fade, it is one thing that will make an eternal difference in the lives of others.
  - f. **Luke 19:10 NLT** For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost).
  - g. **Pastor Dan**: One of our big problems is that we crowd our relationship with God into our day instead of crowding our day into our relationship with God.
  - h. **Augustine**: What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like.
  - i. **Samuel Zwemer**: The mark of a great church is not its seating capacity, but its sending capacity."

**Closing and Invitation; William Booth**: You may say I am not called; but instead of saying you are not called to seek and to save the lost; it would be more proper for you to say I have not heard the call. Put your ear down to Word of God, and hear Him command you go and pull people out of the fire of sin. Put your ear down to the troubled, agonized heart of humanity, and listen to its pitiful cry for help. Go stand by the gates of hell [**Luke 16:19-32**), and hear the damned beg you to go to their father's house and implore their brothers and sisters and servants and masters not to come there. Then look Christ in the face—whose mercy you have professed to

obey—and tell Him whether you will join heart and soul and body and circumstances in the march to publish His mercy to the world.