

Mike Mozingo—Lead Pastor November 3, 2024

THE GREAT COMMISSION

The Ascension of Jesus

⁶ So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, "Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?" ⁷ He replied, "The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. ¹⁰ As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. ¹¹ "Men of Galilee," they said, "why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!" Acts 1:6-11 NLT

• We are to be Christ's witnesses, fulfilling the Great Commission in our cities (Jerusalem), in our states and countries (Judea and Samaria), and anywhere else God sends us (to the ends of the earth).

¹⁸ Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20 NLT

- "<u>Make disciples</u>" is the primary command of the Great Commission.
 "<u>Going</u>," "<u>baptizing</u>," and "<u>teaching</u>" are the means by which we fulfill the command to "make disciples."
- A disciple of Christ imitates Jesus' example, clings to His sacrifice, believes in His resurrection, possesses the Holy Spirit, and lives to do His work.

GOD WANTS EVERYONE TO BE SAVED.

¹ I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. ² Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. ³ This is

good and pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth. ⁵ For, There is one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus. ⁶ He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone. **1 Timothy 2:1-6a NLT**

- That's why we focus so much attention, energy, and resources toward sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ and making disciples.
- We really do believe God's Word!
- We really do believe The Gospel has the power to save souls and set captives free.
- We really do believe a great commitment to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission will make a great church.
- We really do believe that people will spend an eternity in one of two places, <u>heaven</u> or <u>hell</u>.

THE BIG GIVE HAPPENS ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 8th.

- 100% goes to missions and outreach.
- Last year \$212,000 came in through the Big Give that helped spread the Gospel to all nations, to print bibles, to feed the hungry, to train pastors, to make disciples.

A Call to Generous Giving

¹ Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia.² They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity.³ For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. ⁴ They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem. ⁵ They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do. ⁶ So we have urged Titus, who encouraged your giving in the first place, to return to you and encourage you to finish this ministry of giving. ⁷ Since you excel in so many ways—in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us—I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving. 8 I am not commanding you to do this. But I am testing how genuine your love is by comparing it with the eagerness of the other churches.⁹ You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich. ¹⁰ Here is my advice: It would be good for you to finish what you started a year ago. Last year you were the first who wanted to give, and you were the first to begin doing it. ¹¹ Now you should finish what you started. Let the eagerness you showed in the beginning be matched now by your giving. Give in proportion to what you have. ¹² Whatever you give is acceptable if you give it eagerly. And give according to what you have, not what you don't have. ¹³ Of course, I don't mean your giving should make life easy for others and hard for yourselves. I only mean that there should be some equality. ¹⁴ Right now you have plenty and can help those who are in need. Later, they will have plenty and can share with you when you need it. In this way, things will be equal. ¹⁵ As the Scriptures say, "Those who gathered a lot had nothing left over, and those who gathered only a little had enough." 2 Corinthians 8:1-15 NLT

- Give in proportion to what you have.
- Whatever you give is acceptable if you give it eagerly.
- Start praying now and start preparing now for what you might give.