

Improving Our Serve

Long Beach Alliance Church • September 19th, 2010 • Pastor Chris Lankford

So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

~Acts 1:6-8 (NASB)

1) The Need Of The World Is Great

- A) All people who do not have an authentic relationship with Jesus Christ are destined for certain destruction which is coming unexpectedly (1st Thessalonians 5:1-3).
- B) The only hope people have for avoiding this destruction is to have a relationship with Jesus Christ! We are born in our flesh into sin, and we can only be born again through a relationship with Jesus Christ (John 3:1-6).
- C) There are many who do not know Jesus (John 4:35), and will not hear unless we tell them (Romans 10:13-17).

- D) While a person’s salvation is God’s responsibility exclusively (Ephesians 2:8), Christ followers are responsible to tell the world about Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20).

2) Serving The World

- A) As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to Love God (Matthew 22:37-38), Love Others (Matthew 22:39-40), and Serve The World (Matthew 28:18-20) – even to the most remote and uncivilized parts of the world (Acts 1:6-8).
- B) Just as Jesus came to save (John 3:17), we are called to share with others about Jesus Christ (Mark 16:15-16) so that all people (both powerful and pathetic) can be saved (1st Timothy 2:1-4).

3) How Do We Fulfill Such A Great Commission?

- A) As was the pattern of the earliest church (Acts 13:1-3), not everyone is sent, but everyone supports those who are sent (cf. 1st Timothy 5:18).
- B) When we have the opportunity to personally participate in serving the world as missionaries, we are called to “go” (Mark 6:15) and “preach” the Gospel (good news)!
- C) This kind of a lifestyle requires preparation (1st Peter 3:15). This includes cultural and social preparation, along with biblical preparation.
- D) This kind of a lifestyle requires sacrifice (Philippians 2:14-18). Without sacrifice, nothing in God’s Kingdom is accomplished! Jesus’ example of sacrifice is the foundation on which evangelism is accomplished (Philippians 2:5-11).