

Title: The Great Commission

Text: Mark 16:14-20

Would you turn in your Bibles, please, to Mark chapter 16....Mark chapter 16 beginning at Vs 14.....

(Read Mark 16:14-20)

Join me, please, in a moment of Prayer

I would like to begin by commenting on what a lot of you have in your Bibles. That is a footnote regarding verses 9 th 20. And that footnotes says that in some texts these verses (9thru 20) are not found. That means that in some old manuscripts you do not have the last part of chapter 16.

For example, if you have a RSV of the Bible verses 9 thru 20 are ~~not~~ not included in chapter ~~16~~ 16.

But, the KJ includes it and the NAS includes it....The question is: WHY DO SOME TRANSLATIONS LEAVE IT OUT? You may be here today with a Bible that does not have my text today..(ha)....You know, you open your Bible and discover that everything I am preaching on, you do not have....

Well, I hope you do not have that problem. But, if you do. Please look on with your neighbor....

O.K. WHAT IS THE PROBLEM HERE? Well, friends, Manuscribe evidence is a tremendous problem. ~~There are some 13 thousand manuscripts~~ There are some 13 thousand manuscripts All written before the time of printing. You have to remember that because the only other document in history that comes close to that is the writings of Domastics. And there are about 200 known copies of one of his works.

So, the miracle of even coping the scriptures is a fantastic thing. 13 throusand for the Bible before printing, while any other document of ancient history can only claim 200 copies of any one piece. That is incritible...

But in all of this, naturally, there are problems.....Problems of hand copying...And these manuscripts differ. And some people ask: "well, if there are differences how do you know which manuscript is correct.?"

Well, we take all of these and we combined them into a science called "Textual Criticism". In which we evaluate all these manuscripts. Not, only in Greek. But, also, in the languages in which they were translated. And you compare all of these together. All of these manuscripts and then you ask yourself the question: HOW DO WE KNOW THE CORRECT TEXT?....

And there are two ways that you determine this: ONE, is by the date of those manuscripts. The earlier they are the more important they are. And number two, by the total number of readings in a given number of manuscripts. Those two things help you evaluate it. In other words, if out of 8000, 6000 of them contained the reading, I would question "following" the other 200, you see....And especially if most of the manuscripts were early in origine.

Now, my little footnotes says that there are some of the oldest manuscripts do not contain verses 9 to 20. I like that. Because the major of the early manuscripts do contain verses 9 through 20. In fact there are very few early manuscripts which exclude verses 9 to 20. And these are all a part of one tradition of manuscripts.

I believe that Mark 16:9-20 is in the text. And I don't believe there is any question about it. I believe by the number of manuscripts and by the oldness of the majority that contain the reading, there is no question that this is a part of the original Gospel of Mark.

Having stand that I hope the explanation is sufficient. If it isn't, I can recommend a book which is over 500 pages in length that deals with the subject. But I believe it was there and it was said. And it is very important. It is important because some christians have tried to get out-off the problem that is in Mark 16 by arguing that it wasn't in the original text. Well, friends, it was in the original text and we must deal with it.

So, let's come to a study of this passage.

I First of all, in verse 14, I want you to notice the problem that keeps MANY of us from responding to the message of Christ just as it did the disciples
According to the Bible, "Afterward He appeared to the eleven themselves."

Now, ~~that~~ they were reclining at the table, and the Bible says that He reproached them for their unbelief and hardness of heart."

Now, who is He talking about? He is talking about the eleven. The eleven apostles of Christ. Immagine that...Those who ran around with Christ for three years. They saw the cruification. They believed that all their hopes were dead. They forsak ~~Him~~. And now, after he told them time after time that he would arise on the thrid day, the reports of that come to them and they don't believe. Inspite of the fact that Christ taught them that he would arise from the dead....

Listen, friend, you may have heard the Gospel many many times. But the Bible teaches that no matter how much you have heard it, there is ^a problem in our hearts that we must deal with. That is the matter of unbelief and hardnes: This is a very important issue.

I would like you to notice earlier in Mark 16 verse 11...It says "when they heard that He was alive". This was reported to them by Mary Magdalene. "When they head that he was alive, add had been seen by her, they refused to believe it.".....

Immagine that...The very thng he came and told them, they still refused to believe.

Vs 13, the two on the road to Emmas came and told the disciples that they had seen the Lord. And Vs 13 says "they went away and reported it to the others, but they did not believe them either."

They refused to believe. The Bible teaches us that without faith it is impossible to please God. For he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him."

Now, let me share something else that is kind off hard to believe. The first time that Jesus appeared to them, which is recorded in Mark 16:14, According to Luke 24:41, even when he appeared, the Bible says: "~~that~~" they still could not believe it. Jesus stood there in front of them and they still could not believe it.

And Jesus said: "touch me and see, handle me and see. A spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see me have."

Very clearly, the Lord was dealing with their unbelief.

The disciples then told Thomas who wasn't there when the Lord appeared.

Out And 8 days later Thomas still doesn't believe. "Unless a see Him and touch him, I will not believe." And then Jesus appeared unto Thomas and told him to touch him. Then he said to Thomas: "Because you see me you believe. But more blessed are those who do not see, yet they believe".....And that includes you and I. For we must take what the Word of God says by Faith and believe it

Now, the reason, friends, why there is such ~~unbelief~~ unbelief in their hearts is given in Vs 14. That is because of hardness of heart....The root word means "dry". It refers to one who does not respond....

You ask: "Why were their hearts harden which led to unbelief?"....Listen, to this principle. Because it will effect everything you do and believe...

According to Hebrews chapter 3: 7-13, the Bible says our hearts are hardened by the dectetfulness of sin. When we continue in sinful patterns our hearts *get* hard. They get stief and unresponsive. And the result is that we lack faith in God. So, if somebody does not have faith, and does not believe, you can spend all day trying to convience them of the truth of the Gospel and you can share all of the facts, but, friends, if the heart is hard because of the dectetfulness of sin there will be no response. *Example - Priests*

You see, the Holy Spirit of God must break that hard ground. In order for a person to see their need of a saviour. This is so important.

OK, let's come to the purpose that Jesus said we should all have. The purpose that we should have. Vs 15, He said to them, "God into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."

Can you imigine telling a hand full of guys who have already ran away, they are scared to death, to go into all the world?....You say, "Man, how can God do anything with those men?.....But, if you really worry about that just turn around and look at ~~the~~ the folks next to you....or more important look into the mirror....and you will understand the problem.

Do, You see what I mean?... I mean, how can God use anyone of us to reach a world that now they tell us has over 2 Billion people in it that has never even heard of Jesus. Never even heard of him. You know there are people who have never even heard the name of Jesus. They have never heard of Christmas or Easter. And we set here in this nation so constantly exposed to this. And we think that ~~People~~ ^{People} know who Jesus Christ is. That the world knows. Friends, the world does not know. There are more people, right now, who has not heard the Gospel of christ than those who have. And among those who have there are countless millions of them who have never responded to the Gospel of Christ. "God into all the world and preach the gospel.

Matthew 28:19 tells us about that great responsibility that you and I have. A tremendous responsibility. It says to disciple all the nations. Mark called it all the world. Luke 24 says, "all the nations beginning with Jersulam." Acts 1:8 says in Jersulem, in Judea, in Sarmaria, even to the furtherest parts of the earth.

God wants us to spread over all the world and tell ~~mess~~ this message. People often say: "Well, he told the eleven apostles that. It doesn't apply to us.".....Listen, friends, settle it once and for all in your minds, the commission of Christ goes to all ~~people~~ ^{believers}. There were more than the twelve present when he shared the Great commission. *in Matt 28*

You say, "Hay, wait amminute. Mark 16:14 says the eleven".....YES, but that was only one of many occasions when the Lord shared the great commision. These great commissions ~~that~~ ^{are} listed at the ends of the Gaspels are not all ~~of~~ ^{given} the same occasion...That is very clear...They are not on a mountain with Jesus ascenting and he was telling them that as one of the Gospels records...NO... They are in a house reclining at the table according to Vs 14. Jesus shared, that great commision, I believe, many times, in that 40 days after his resurrection. He constantly told his people to God into all the woorld and preach the gospel to all creation.

Notice, what the main requirement is. It is so simple...PREACH THE GOSPEL. You say, "That is your work"...I didn't come here today to hear that I have to go out and preach the Gospel." But, friends that is what it is all about.

The number one priority, the major task of every believer, is to proclaim the Gospel. Preaching, not in the sense of the Pastor-teacher, teaching in the local church. That is not even the word used. It is to proclaim as a herald. And it was constantly used of the believers in the book of Acts. They spread everywhere and proclaimed the gospel as a herald. A herald simply represents the king. Simply gives the message that the king instructed him to give. It is witnessing to the Gospel. And the Bible says that Jesus wants us to go into all the world and proclaim the message. To tell people that Jesus loves them. And he died on the cross for sin. And that he is alive. He rose again from the dead. Tell people, wherever, whenever, to whomever....Proclaim the gospel.

The Reason This church is not full is because we can not preach the Gospel.

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Now Let's come to

~~Now, let us~~ Vs 16....After the commission to go and preach to all creation, Jesus said: "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved." "But he who has disbelieved shall be condemned."

Now, some folks look at that and say that you have to be baptized in order to be saved. IS THAT TRUE OR ISN'T IT?...."He who believed and has been baptized shall be saved."

Well, friends, it is true regardless of whether it is necessary to be baptized. Let me show you what I mean...

If it was that you had to be both baptized and believing in order to be saved, then the last statement would read like this: "He who disbelieves and has not been baptized shall be condemned."

But it does not say that. You see, the statement is true. I can read it: HE WHO BELIEVES IS SAVED. Or, I can also read it: HE WHO BELIEVES AND IS BAPTIZED IS SAVED. Or, I could read it: HE WHO BELIEVES AND IS BAPTIZED AND READS HIS BIBLE IS SAVED.....Do you understand? Both are true...

But, one is not a condition of the other. Or, else, the last phrase would have to read: "HE WHO HAS DISBELIEVED AND HAS NOT BEEN BAPTISED SHALL BE CONDEMNED."

You say, "Well, way is Baptism a part of that statement? Why is it so important? Friends, all the believers in the N.T. were baptized. All of them following Pentecost were baptized.

WHAT IS THE POINT OF BAPTISM? Baptism is that public act of obedience to God. The answer of a good conscience towards God. It illustrates what happens to one who is a christian. It is a public testimony that you have received Jesus Christ as saviour and Lord of your life. And it illustrates the death and the burial and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It illustrates the fact that you have been cleansed from sin.

And if you have believed and you have been baptized you are saved. If you have believed, you have, also, been saved. Regardless of whether you have been baptized. But you will certainly be a disobedient christian. ~~Because Jesus~~ commands us to be baptized. And that is a part of the great commission. It is that step of obedience which seals that which you say you believe.

Yes, we are to go into all the world and preach the gospel. But what resources do we have? Turn please, to Acts 1:8. Acts 1:8...Put one finger there and put another finger in Luke 24. Luke 24 and Acts 1:8....And these two passages give to us the resources that are necessary to reach the world with the Gospel.....

(Read Luke 24:48-49)

Not turn to Acts chapter 1....(Read Acts 1:4-8)

Receive power....WHAT KIND OF POWER?.....It is the power of the Holy Spirit....Not money...Not education...not creat talent and ability...The Bible says the power of the Holy Spirit.

If You are a believer in Jesus Christ, whether you have fully appreciated, enjoyed, or realized this truth. It is true of every believer, The Holy Spirit of God is living in your body, right now. Oh, listen, whether you have ever felt it, or enjoyed it or not, it is true. I Cor 6 says "know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. God's Holy Spirit dwells in us... Isn't that a fantastic truth?....Talk about something that is really great. Take about a gift. The book of Acts calls the Holy Spirit "the gift." And

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And the gift of the Holy Spirit comes, according to Acts 11, through believing in the Lord Jesus. So, if you have received Christ, you have the gift of the Holy Spirit in you. WHAT FANTASTIC RESOURCES! WHAT POWER. Jesus said that we could go into all the world with that power.

Some folks say: "Oh, we have mass communication. We can evangelise the world through Mass communication."

Friends, God's plan has never changed. In spite of the tremendous usage of radio and television, what is the powerful, the most useful, the most effective tool in evangelising the world?...

Why, they have this documented....Over 96% of those who went to Jesus are won by person to person evangelism.....HOW ABOUT THAT.....

You say, I will give my money to Mass communication. That will reach the world....NO...No...The power of the Holy Spirit working through individuals to individuals. Jesus said: [redacted] "When the Holy Spirit comes on you, [redacted] Christians, he will convict the world through you of sin, righteousness and judgement. The Holy Spirit uses people in whom he dwells in [redacted] order to convict the world and draw people to Christ....FANTASTIC.....God controlling and working through your life and mine. And picturing the very beauty of Christ is the magnet that is drawing people to Christ.

Tremendous resources. The power of the Holy Spirit....

Now What kind of results should we expect? Coming back to Mark 16...

We have already mentioned them. Vs 16 says there will be belief and baptism, if the message is received. If the message is rejected, there is condemnation. And on this day, I would remind you, friends, that if you reject the message of Christ, the result is condemnation. *Eternal separation from God*

Oh, how we need to get the message out. Let us not be indifferent and unconcerned. But let us recognize that we have the power of the Holy Spirit. So, let's open our mouths and share and proclaim the message..the wonderful news that Jesus loves us and that he died for our sins ...that God became man that we might have every lasting life....and ^{know} complete forgiveness....

and lets preach it or proclaim it.

Now, according to Jesus, there is some proof in this passage, Vs 17-20, there is some proof which would cause people to believe the Apostles and there message. Vs 17 says: "And these signs will accompany those who have believed.".....Now, I want to take this slowly because these verses have cause some confusion in peoples minds....

First of all, notice the promise of Jesus about ^{"signs"} themselves. He said: "the signs will accompany those who have believed: and in my name they will cast out demons, they ^{will} speak with new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it shall not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

First of all, the signs will be done, according to the Bible, along side off those who believe. The text is not saying that those who believe are doing the signs....Obviously the Apostles will be believers when they do the signs. But, what the text does say in Vs 17 that these signs will accompany.. The idea is that along side of those who do respond to the message. They are the proof. The proof that causes the people to ~~believe~~ believe the Apostles and there message.

The whole story of what we now have in the N.T. was not yet in written form. All they had was the O.T. WHY WOULD PEOPLE BELIEVE WHEN THE APOSTLE TELL THEM THE WONDERFUL STORY OF CHRIST? WHY WILL THEY BELIEVE THEM?

Answer According to the Bible, signs will be along side off those who believe. Either done by an apostle or in the presence of an apostle. And I find that very interesting. Because there is not one example in all of the N.T. of any sign given that was not done by or in the presence of an apostle. They will be along side off those who believe.

If the signs ~~are~~ friends, are here today and for today, as Jesus discribed, then they should accure every time someone beoomes a believer. Now, listen, to me: if you understand your text correctly, if you are reading it literally the way Jesus said it, then if those signs are here today, if that is the purpose, that they would stay and be manifested, then any time anyone believes, there would have to be evidence of these signs.... Every time someone believes.....

But, we don't see that do we?....Sometimes...Sometimes not...according to most folks...

Number two, according to the Bible the signs will be done by the Apostle

Please notice something very interesting here. In Vs 14 it says that Jesus appeared to the eleven. In Vs 17 and 18 you have the pronoun "they".....

People say: "well, that refers to those who believe"....But, not so... Because in the Greek text, it emphasizes who the "they" refer to...So that when you come down to Vs 20 and ~~he~~^{she} says "AND THEY WENT OUT AND PREACHED AND THE LORD WORKED WITH THEM AND CONFIRMED THE WORD BY THE SIGNS"

In the Greek this is called a demonstrative pronoun. THOSE ONES TO WHOM I COMMITTED THAT MESSAGE. "They" are the ones that the Lord works with. This is very powerful to tell us that the signs according to Jesus would be done by the Apostles. And this matches with what 2 Corinthians 12:12 says: "The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs, wonders and miracles."

These signs, according to the Bible, must be along side of the Apostles and their message. I will show you why in a moment.

O.K. what signs:?...Well, there were five of them according to the Bible. Vs 17 says: "in my name they will cast out demons"..."In my name"...Obvisously, in the authority of Christ.

Also, it says they will speak with new tongues. People say, "Well, that is ^unew ~~AD~~ heavenly language. Something different then the languages of the world....NO IT ISN'T...NOT AT ALL....There are two words for "new" in Greek. And the word used here is "new" from the standpoint of "fresh". "New" to the speaker....But not "new" in time. If it was a new language, other than the ones already known, it would have to be a different word. It is not a different word It refers to "new" to the speaker. The fact that they did not know the language....And I believe the Bible teaches, very clearly, that tongues is the ability to speak in foriegn languages without any previous training or knowledge of that language. THE POINT IS: that they will speak with tongues that are ~~new~~ new to them, even though they are currently existing in the world.

(NOT MY opinion - it's Wndy G's)

There were over 15 dialects present on the day of Pentecost when the Apostles preached and spoke in tongues. 15 dialects present and yet each man heard in his own language. They would be new to the speaker, but not new in time. It also says they will pick up snakes and drink deadly poison. Any volunteers?.....But, they did it. And there are accounts in the N.T. where they did so.....WHY DO WE TAKE TONGUE SIGNS AND NOT OTHERS? People today say that it is tongues and healing. But what about the other three. The other three say to pick up snakes and drink deadly poison and cast out demons.....

Now, listen, friends, God can do all five of these signs anytime he wants to. THE QUESTION IS: WHY DO THESE SIGNS NOT OCCURE AS JESUS SAID ALONG SIDE OF THOSE WHO BELIEVAE? WHY DOES IT NOT HAPPEN THE MOMENT SOMEONE BELIEVES IN CHRIST?.....We know of many people who have believed and these signs have not occured. WHY?....WHY.....

This brings me to the purpose of these signs?..what is the purpose of these signs? We know that according to the Bible when Jesus did these signs they were given so that you would believe that He was the Messiah. John 20:30 says that Jesus performed many signs so that you may believe that He is the Christ, the son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name."

They were credentials that He was the Messiah.....

Peter, preaching on the day of Pentecost said "the signs that Jesus did, signs, wonders, miracles, are evidences by God that He was the Messiah." And the same thing is true about the Apostles and there message.....Let me show you a couple of things....

First, the ones with whom the Lord was working, according to the Bible, ~~was~~ ^{they} the apostles. As I mention early, Vs 20, the word "they" is very strong in that point. Now, I want you to look at this....Look at your text....And I want you to notice the change between Vs ~~17-18~~ and verse 19. In Verse 17-18, we have the prediction of what is going to happen. So, the ~~senses~~ all read like this: THEY WILL cast out demons.....THEY WILL speak...THEY WILL pick up serpents THEY WILL DRINK....THEY WILL LAY HANDS ON THE SICK.

Let me ask you a question. Did the Apostles before this time ever do any of those signs?.....Yes.....Yes....The Apostles during the ministry of Christ cast out demons and laid their hands on the sick and they recovered... Then, why, friends, did Jesus give this instruction saying THEY WILL do this? WHY?...Because the purpose of what they will do is different then what they did during Christ's ministry. It would change in purpose. WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE? After the ascension of Christ, what is the purpose?

Well, look at Vs 19 and notice the change of tense..."So then, WHEN the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and preached everywhere."

Notice, please, the tenses of Vs 20....THEY WENT OUT...(Past tense)... THEY PREACHED EVERYWHERE (Past tense), while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word. The words "worked" and "confirmed"....past tense...

Now, listen, clearly. Many people read this text as to what Vs 20 is saying is that all of this is continuing. THAT IS NOT WHAT VERSE 20 IS SAYING AT ALL. It does not say that they are continuing to preach while the Lord is continuing to work with them; and continuing to confirm the word.

NO.....Mark is writting back to that time.....WHEN DID MARK WRITE *John Gospel?*

Mark's gospel was written in 68 A.D.....68 AD. before the destruction of Jerselem and after the death of the Apostle Paul.

And Mark says "THEY"..The Apostles went out and it is done. It is past tense...Now...ARE YOU READY FOR THIS?.....There is no record of any miracles done by the Apostles after that date. None what so ever....

As a matter of fact, Paul in the last years of his life totally lacked the ability he had in ~~his~~ early years to heal people.

On three occasions with Trophimus(Trof'i-mus), Timothy, and Epaphroditus (E-paf'ro-di'tus) he was unable to heal them. Even though they were dear, dear friends in the Lord. And they were sick unto death. He was unable to heal them. I ask you, if he had the gift of healing why could he not heal even his close friends?

People say: "well, God didn't want to heal them". But if what we hear people say is true, WHY COULD THESE MEN NOT PERFORM MIRACLES?

Answers
Because the purpose of the miracles were specific and definite. Turn to Hebrews chapter 2 and let me show you. Hebrews chapter 2.....

And by the way, I don't want a person going out of here tonight saying that the Pastor doesn't believe in miracles or healing. That isn't true. God can do whatever he wants to do in this day and age. But, it is the method and agency that we are concerned. It is not as it was in N.T. times. God certainly does miracles today...Tremendous miracles.... But He does not do them in the way and the agency of the Apostles in N.T. times. Hebrews 2:3 shows us that....
(Read Hebrews 2:3-4)

It was the Apostles who did the signs, wonders, and miracles. And we who heard them, the Bible says, the word that they spoke to us was confirmed.

seems they didn't have the NT.
In other words, the message of the Apostles was being confirmed by those miracles. The message the Apostles preached was being confirmed.

What does it mean to confirm? Well, the word "confirm" is a legal word. It means to "authenticate", to establish. The root word means to make firm or steadfast. It is used many times in the Bible. For example: you and I have a hope that one Day the Lord Jesus will return. AMEN?....We believe that... The Bible says in Hebrews 6:19 that our hope is sure and confirmed, steadfast. *meaning it*
~~I believe that~~ is settled. I don't believe there is any option. I believe the Lord is coming, just like he says. It is already confirmed. It is already established.

Romans 4:16 says concerning the promise to Abraham, that the promise is made certain...that is the same word "confirmed". Whatever God said to Abraham is going to happen. It was established. Nothing can change it. According to 1 Corinthians 1:8, it says that God will confirm us to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? That means that you and I have been made perfect in the precious blood of the Lord Jesus. ~~if~~ we are confirmed until the day of Jesus Christ. Aren't you glad that it is not ~~shaky~~ shaky? It is confirmed. It is settled. Praise his wonderful name.

And in 2 Peter 1:19 concerning the Word itself. It is that the

~~prophet~~ word is made more sure. That is the word "confirmed", "settled" ~~that~~

Prophetic

That is why Peter said that no phrohecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. It has been confirmed. It is settled.

So, the purpose of signs done by or in the presences of an Apostle was to confirm the spoken message of that Apostle. Which is now recorded in the N.T. And the big issue ~~about~~ / about whether or not these signs should be done today with ~~that~~ motive and that reason ^{world} ~~with~~ have to deal with the revelation of God's Word. If we believe in progressive revelation, that is, that anybody could speak God's Word whenever they wanted to, then, Yes we need those miracelous signs. ^{But} If you believe that the Word of God is complete and final, it is done, you cannot add to it ~~or~~ take away from it, then it ~~has~~ been ~~confirmed~~ and there is no way that those signs could be done with that purpose. It does not mean that God cannot do miracles. God can heal. But someone with the ~~ability~~ ~~to~~ ~~always~~ lay their hands on the sick. Everyone who came to Jesus was healed. The apostles healed all those who came to them. And yet, later in their life, after the confirmation of Paul's own ministry, he himself could not heal ~~all~~ ^{all} those who came to him.

Friends, listen, someone may go and lay their hands on somebody. And they may get healed. But if they do, it is because God did so with that person. It is not because that person has the gift the apostles had in the N.T. If they have that gift, they should go ~~down~~ to the local hospital and clear it out. God used miracleous signs ~~to~~ confirm his Holy and precious Word.

^{* OPTLY} And the whole point of this friends is the missionary task. And that is what upsets me. People get wriped up with the signs and they ~~Forget~~ the whole point of the passage. The Point of the passage is that we have a Word that is confirmed and established and it is the Word of God. So, let's take it around the World...GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH THE GOSPEL. Jesus said to be witness first in Taft and then in Bakersfield and then to all the world. Why? Because we have a Word confirmed and made sure by God. Praise God.

Now, let me tell you what you ought to do with this passage.

Number one, I think you ought to do what this text says, if you haven't done this yet. I think you ought to believe and be baptiz~~ed~~. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved.

Isn't it great to know that this ~~day~~ day you could receive forgiveness and salvation? Believe on Jesus and be saved.

And then be baptiz~~e~~d as a pbulic confession of your faith.

And if you are a believer and you have been baptised, then let's go into all the world and preclaim the Godd news....Let's get off our back sides and fell this church by becoming the witnesses God would have us to be.

-Let's-Clse in Prayer