

Sermon Notes:

The Responsibility of the Great Commission

1. The Responsibility around Us

- For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

(2 Corinthians 5:14-21)

All Passages from the English Standard Version

2 The Responsibility among Us

- Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. (Acts 20:28)
- So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. (Galatians 6:10)
- But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. (1 Timothy 5:8)

3. The Responsibility within Us

- Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says, "In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. (2 Corinthians 6:1,2)

Gregory Alan Tidwell

One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much.

Luke 16:10 *English Standard Version*

God rewards those who are faithful. Throughout your life, God will give you opportunities to grow in your faith. He continually brings you to times when you must trust Him. He will lead you into situations that require a little faith, and if you are faithful, He will then provide you with opportunities requiring even greater trust in Him. Each time you faithfully serve God at the place where you are in life, God will enlarge your opportunities for service. Your faith and your opportunities in God's service are directly linked.

The best way to tell if you are prepared for a greater responsibility in God's service is to see how faithful you have been with those responsibilities God has already given you. This is a foundational principle in God's relationships with us: If you have been faithful with the little He has given you, you are ready to be entrusted with more. If you failed to trust God with the little He gave you, He will not trust you with more. God will not entrust you with opportunities beyond your present level of trust and obedience to Him. The children of Israel were unwilling to trust God to lead them into the Promised Land, and their generation never again was able to move forward with Him.

You stand at an exciting new door of opportunity to serve God more effectively every time you believe Him. Every step of faith enhances your service in His kingdom. It is an open invitation to be empowered and entrusted with greater things in the Lord's work.



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