

Take Christ To The World

Ponder: Did God say, "Take the world for Christ"?

Scripture: "Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life," (Rev. 2:10).

I've said it myself: "We're going to take the world for Christ!"

Umm . . . no, we're not.

I can hear it now: "Joe, you must not believe in the power of the gospel! You don't believe in evangelism! You're a pessimist!"

Wrong on all counts!

Christ's gospel has lost none of its power. And the Lord did command to take His gospel to the world. I marvel at the record in Acts where thousands upon thousands responded in faith and obedience. But even then, the vast majority of the population remained outside of Christ. That's not negative or pessimistic, it's realistic!

We set ourselves up for disappointment and discouragement when we speak contrary to what the Lord Himself told us. The way to eternal life is difficult and its gate is narrow; only a few find it. It's the wide way and broad gate leading to destruction that is traversed by many (Matt. 7:13-14).

God told His prophet Ezekiel in advance that the vast majority would not obey. That being the case, why bother preaching? Simply because "whether they hear or whether they refuse . . . yet they will know that a prophet has been among them" (Ezek. 2:5).

What, then, is our obligation? Jesus charges us to be the salt of the earth and light of the world (Matt. 5:13-16). Our light is not our own; we reflect the light of Christ, who is truly "the light of the world" (John 8:12). Good works done in His name, along with the proclamation of His gospel, shine His light to a pitch dark world.

But realize that most will avoid the light, even as the majority rejected Him when He was on earth. "Men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil" (John 3:19). Jesus said, "If they persecuted me, they will persecute you; If they kept My word, they will keep yours also" (John 15:20).

No inspired person ever said, "Take the world for Christ!" Instead, take Christ to the world. Some will believe and obey; most will not. Our task is to be faithful.

Hymn: "Send The Light"

Prayer: Mighty Father, we thank You for Jesus and His gospel. Help us to be faithful in taking Christ to a world desperately in need of Him. In His name, Amen.