TEXT: Mark 16:15 - "And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

This verse is well known as "The Great Commission." What does commission mean? In Webster's dictionary it says, "an authorization to perform certain duties or tasks; a document giving such authorization; the authority so granted; a group of people appointed to perform specific duties."

We are commissioned (sent out) by God's authority to "go into all the world. Most of the time, for us, that means the city and neighboring areas where we live, work and shop. It's also right in our own home and among our own relatives.

WHY WITNESS ???

1. We are obeying the command Jesus gave us.
   Mark 16:15. Note that in Matt. 10:5-8 (before the cross), Jesus told his 12 disciples to "not go the way of the Gentiles", "but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Even then, those chosen disciples were to preach saying, "the kingdom of heaven is at hand." The familiar verses in Matt. 10:8 is a classic, even for us, today. It's very similar proceeding Mark 16:15, in verses #17 & #18. Matt. 10:8 says, "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils, freely ye have received, freely give."

In Mark 16:16-18, Jesus again commissions the disciples to "go", without restrictions this time. "Go into all the world". There's no limit to that phrase. This time it did include the Gentiles.

So is anyone exempt from being a witness once one has become born again? The answer is no! We all should be witnesses and soul winners.

Paul states in I Cor. 3:6 - "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase." In other words, not everyone we meet is ready to be saved, just yet. We can "plant" or "water" that "seed" of the message of salvation.

Don't be disappointed if you ask someone to be born again and they say no.
It's always God's timing for anyone to be saved. Not everyone is ready by their own will. (See: II Cor. 6:2)

I Cor. 3:9 tells us that we are "labourers together with God."

2. We will be rewarded. I Cor. 3:8(b) ... "every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. I Cor. 3:13 goes on to say, "every man's work shall be made manifest...because it shall be revealed by fire." I Cor. 3:14 - "If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward."

I Thess. 2:19 & 20 makes it clear that those who lead others to the Lord and remain faithful till the coming of Jesus, will receive a "crown of rejoicing". (or soul-winner's crown).

3. We are considered wise to do so.
   Prov. 11:30(b) - "...he that winneth souls is wise."

   Daniel 12:3(b) - "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament and they that turn many to righteousness, as the stars forever and ever."

4. We are followers of Jesus. Matt. 4:19 - "...follow Me. I will make you fishers of men."

   When we follow Jesus all the way and surrender totally unto Him, He will put the desire in our hearts to win the lost. (Luke 5:10)

5. Because the harvest is ready! Matt. 9:37 - "Then saith He unto His disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few."


6. It produces a zeal (fire) for Jesus. Romans 10:1
   Romans 11:14 / I Cor. 9:22.

7. So people won't go to hell. Jude #23 - "...pulling them out of the fire." Rev. 20:15 - "...was cast into
the lake of fire."

8. Winning souls gives us JOY! Note: Depression leaves when we get our mind off of us and onto others, especially lost souls that we witness to.

Psalms 126:6 - "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

Luke 15:6 (rejoicing over finding the lost sheep)

Luke 15:7 (the angels rejoice over just one soul getting saved)

John 4:16 / Acts 15:3.

9. Because we "are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses...” Hebrews 12:1.

Who are those witnesses? The saved souls and angels in heaven, even our heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus. Maybe those souls in heaven prayed much on earth, for that very person you are witnessing to or lead to the Lord. Let me remind you, there are witnesses in heaven who are cheering us on to win souls.

10. It's an eternal, lasting accomplishment.

"Only one life twill soon be past -
 Only what's done for Christ will last."

Think about it, some of our earthly life accomplishments and efforts will "go up in smoke" you could say, when the final day of judgment comes. When we win souls, it will count and last through all of eternity.

See: Col. 3:17 & 23.

Matt. 25:23 - "Well done, thou good and faithful servant..." Who does God call faithful? Those who serve Him relentlessly, uncompromisingly and consistently. I Thess. 5:24 - "Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it."

God will cause us to be faithful in His service as I Cor. 15:58 says, "...be ye steadfast,
unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

Will you be that one He finds labouring in His harvest field when He returns? Will you be that one He calls wise? YES!!! You can be. Surrender and yield to the Holy Spirit so God can use you in His harvest field to win many precious souls to Jesus!

Mark 16:15.

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