

HOW MANY DOES YOUR CHURCH SEND?

Have you noticed how many times the word “Go” is used in the Bible? When you begin to research it you will be amazed at the number of times and the number of ways it is used. I’d like for us to recall just a few of the places where this little 2-letter word is used. Yes, it is a small word, but it stands up in some big places. One little boy observed that the word “God” begins with the word “go”. That sounds like good theology when you think of our Wesleyan perspective of grace!

In Matthew 10, Jesus spoke to His disciples and said, “As you go, preach, saying, ‘the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils; freely you have received, now freely give.” Those first disciples heard the command...”Go.” Has the expectation changed for the contemporary Christian? I don’t believe it has.

Over the years the Church has adopted the stance of attraction. The invitation has changed from “Go and serve” to “Come and sit.” We even measure the size of a Church by the number of people sitting inside it. Our presence in a worship service is vital, don’t get me wrong. We do not forsake the gathering together in worship. But this gathering is a means, not an end. It is a means of honoring and adoring God. It is a means for personal and corporate spiritual development. It is a means for fellowship and building healthy relationships. I could go on and on, but you know the importance of our assembling together.

But, we become the real salt of the earth as we GO. The Great Commission begins with the command to “Go”. The Church scattered becomes the salt outside the shaker of the sanctuary. The flavor is released as we are poured out. We are poured out as we “Go” into the entire world. Church is a way of being, not just a place where we gather to “do” spiritual stuff. Being the Church is a way of being the Body of Christ for the world. Our mission is clear. GO. GO. GO.

God lived out “GO” when we needed a Savior. Jesus went out...among the hurting, lost, sick, and struggling. The Gospel begins with “GO”. When the demoniac was set free and pledged to follow Jesus he was told, “GO home to your friends and tell them what good things the Lord has done for you.” So, it seems to me that we need to ask ourselves about our “sending” rather than our “seating”. The Resurrection compels us to “GO and tell.” How many does your Church send? Are you a “sent person” or a “seated person?” Let’s GO with Christ.

Blessings upon you as you GO,

Brother Ron