

# ***The Local Church and the Great Commission***

*PASTOR MIKE YODER • 1 THESSALONIANS 1:1–10*



Jesus invites the whole church to  
invest their lives in His mission.



*Paul, Silas and Timothy,  
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the  
Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you.*

*We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers.*

*We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that He has chosen you,*

*because our Gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake.*

*You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.*



*And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.*

*The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia — your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it,*

*for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us.  
They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living  
and true God,*

*and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead — Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.*

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- Are courageous in their witness locally, regionally, and globally
- Are clear on the core of the Gospel

Missions is not the ultimate goal of the Church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn't. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man. When this age is over, and the countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more. It is a temporary necessity. But worship abides forever.

Worship, therefore, is the fuel and goal of missions. It's the goal of missions because in missions we simply aim to bring the nations into the white-hot enjoyment of God's glory...But worship is also the fuel of missions. Passion for God in worship precedes the offer of God in preaching. You can't commend what you don't cherish. Missions begins and ends in worship.

**John Piper**

*When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted.*

**Matthew 28:17**

*Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.*

**Matthew 28:18**

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them  
in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

**Matthew 28:19**

*and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.  
And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

**Matthew 28:20**

# **Involvement in the Great Commission**

Pray



# **Involvement in the Great Commission**

Pray • Give

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Pray • Give • Welcome • Send • Go

The most important thing happening in the world today is the advance of the Gospel to the ends of the earth by the power of the Spirit. The Gospel is intended for the whole world,

**Steve Richardson**

and the Great Commission is for all of us who know Christ. Every Christian should understand God's big-picture plan for redeeming the peoples of the earth and find their place within the worldwide harvest efforts.

**Steve Richardson**

What greater gift can we give the children we love than assurance that their lives are part of a grand, God-glorifying mission to bless the peoples of the world?

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What more could we hope for than to see them devote their lives to Great Commission service in whatever ways God opens up for them?

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*May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face  
shine on us —*

**Psalm 67:1**

*so that Your ways may be known on earth, Your salvation  
among all nations.*

*May the peoples praise You, God; may all the peoples praise You.*

*May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for You rule the peoples with equity and guide the nations of the earth.*

*May the peoples praise You, God; may all the peoples praise You.*

*The land yields its harvest; God, our God, blesses us.*

*May God bless us still, so that all the ends of the earth  
will fear Him.*

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