

Lesson 3: The Mandate of the Gospel

Lesson 3 Objective: To understand that, from God's perspective, evangelism is *not* optional...

Likely we already know evangelism is not optional, so perhaps we revise our lesson objective as follows: *To be encouraged by the Holy Spirit using the word of God to **obedience** in sharing the gospel.*

I. The mandate of our existence

- A. God's purpose in the world: The manifestation of His glory Eph 1:6, 12, 14
- B. Our purpose in the world: To glorify God 1 Cor 6:20

Key Takeaway – To glorify God is to truthfully make His character known in the world, and this is the reason for our creation!

II. The mandate in the Old Testament

- A. Abel's testimony Heb 11:4
- B. Noah's witness 2 Pet 2:5
- C. Israel's calling Ex 19:4-6
- D. Job's witness Job 1:8
- E. The psalmists' proclamations Ps 40:8-10; 71:8, 14-18, 22-24

Key Takeaway – God's calling to His faithful servants in the Old Testament was to make Him known in the world around them!

III. The mandate in the New Testament

- A. The purpose of Jesus Christ Jn 4:34; 17:4
- B. The purpose of His disciples
 - 1. Following to become fishers of men Matt 4:19; Mk 1:17
 - 2. Following to become apostles proclaiming the kingdom Matt 10:1ff; Lk 9:1ff
 - 3. Obeying in:
 - a. Making disciples Matt 28:19
 - b. Preaching the gospel Mk 16:15
 - c. Proclaiming to all nations Lk 24:46-47
 - 4. Abiding to bear the fruit of greater works Jn 14:12; 15:4-5
- C. The purpose of the church
 - 1. As those preaching the Lord Jesus Christ Ac 8:4-5; 11:19-20
 - 2. As those given the ministry of reconciliation 2 Cor 5:17-19
 - 3. As those from whom the word of the Lord is sounding forth 1 Thess 1:6-10
 - 4. As those who are meditating God's presence in the world 1 Pet 2:9-10
- D. Conclusion: You shall be My witnesses
 - ➔ Faith-based obedience Ac 1:8; 8:4-5; 11:19-20

If we are not making God's character known in the world by our words and our lives, we are not fulfilling the purpose for our creation.



Key Takeaway – God's calling to His faithful servants in the New Testament IS to make Him known in the world around them!