

THE GREAT OMISSION (2 Peter 1:12-15)

I. We sometimes have omitted the pity of God.

- A. Pity is defined as: “sympathetic or kindly sorrow evoked by the suffering, distress, or misfortune of another, often leading one to give relief or aid or to show mercy.”
- B. God looked down on us with pity and it moved Him to send His Son for us (John 3:16).
 - 1. We were lost in sin and helpless.
 - 2. It was the pity and mercy of God that offered us salvation while we were in that state (Romans 5:8).
- C. Many Christians don't have the pity for the lost that God does.
 - 1. We tend to sit in judgment on others.
 - 2. We keep the saving message of the gospel to ourselves and don't get out and fulfill the Great Commission.
- D. This leads us to the next thing we sometimes omit.

II. We sometimes have omitted the price of sin.

- A. Romans 6:23.
- B. We seem to forget that the cost of sin is death.
 - 1. This death is eternal separation from God.
 - 2. Sin separates man from God (Isaiah 59:1-2).
- C. James was very pointed when he wrote about sin (1:13-15).
- D. We like to make some sins out to be little, like they are harmless.
 - 1. We toy with sin.
 - 2. We see how close we can get to it.
 - 3. The fact of the matter is sin causes death and we seem to forget that all too often.
- E. Since many seem to forget the price of sin, we are led to something else we at times omit.

III. We sometimes have omitted the preciousness of a soul.

- A. Matthew 16:26.
- B. The soul of one person is more valuable than anything on the face of the earth.
 - 1. All the riches in the world are pathetic in comparison.
 - 2. The largest bank accounts combined don't begin to compare to the value of human souls.
- C. How do we look at our fellow man?
 - 1. Do we look at him or her as a friend and a person?
 - 2. Or, do we look at that person as a soul?
 - 3. We must remember that each person has a soul that is going to spend eternity somewhere.
- D. True love for a person causes us to tell them about the gospel that will save their eternal soul.

IV. We sometimes have forgotten the purpose of the church.

- A. Congregations have forgotten that they are light houses.

1. Matthew 5:14-16.
2. Instead, many have become social clubs.
- B. Look at what many congregations spend their money on.
 1. Family life centers.
 2. Playgrounds, ping-pong and pool tables.
 3. The latest and greatest toys to draw people to their club.
- C. The church solely exists to propagate truth (1 Timothy 3:15).
 1. We must get the saving message of the gospel out to a lost and dying world.
 2. We can't keep it hid in our four walls.
 3. Christianity is a taught religion (John 6:45) and people won't hear without a teacher (Romans 10:14).
- D. Omission of the purpose of the church has led to our next point.
- V. **We sometimes have forgotten the power of the gospel.**
 - A. Romans 1:16 - God's word saves people because it tells us how to be saved through the blood of Christ.
 - B. Too many congregations are drawing people with things other than the gospel.
 1. Those gyms get old and a new congregation has a bigger and better one.
 2. The worship service is not as showy as the congregation down the road any longer.
 3. We can't entertain people into the church and expect them to stay without the entertainment.
 - C. James 1:21 - only the gospel can save mankind.
 1. I was reading about a missionary in India who in the last 6 months has preached 430 times and baptized 1340 souls.
 2. The gospel is still powerful if we will unleash it.
 3. It can do great things if we will let it.
 4. Bigger buildings with bigger shows and bigger gyms probably will attract a crowd.
 5. They will not save them and we can't get caught up in that mind set.
 - D. This does not mean the facilities you have should not be up to date or spartan in their amenities.
 1. In our day and age what you have has to be nice to be attractive to people.
 2. What you have to get them in with is not the facility but the gospel.
 3. If they don't come for the gospel they won't stay for it either.
 - E. Omission of the power of the gospel has led to the next point.
- VI. **We sometimes have omitted the prayer of Jesus.**
 - A. John 17:20-21.
 - B. In our haste to be like the denominational world around us, we seem to have joined them.
 - C. Jesus prayed for unity.
 1. That unity is based upon an adherence to and love for God's word.

2. We are to be united as the Father and Son are united.
 3. They are united in aim, action and will.
 4. They brought forth the same teaching.
- D. We can't have unity with the denominational world because they refuse to reject man made doctrines and unite in Christ.
- E. Sadly, numerous congregations have espoused an open relationship with denominational groups.
1. They uphold unity in diversity.
 2. They claim something that is not there because one cannot have unity with error and hold to truth.
- F. Obedience to the gospel is the only way we can be united with one another and the Lord.

From an outline by Wade Webster.