Celebration Services (April 19th & 20th, 2008) Reclaiming the Ground of Discipleship (Pt. 3)
"Duplication ... Disciples in the Rearview Mirror"

INTRO

❝ It is a classic scene in western culture. She stands before the microphone, beautiful and poised, a finalist in the Miss America contest. The host asks her what she would like to accomplish during her reign and she says, "I would like to create world peace, solve world hunger, and liberate all the caged parakeets in the entire world." We've all heard it a hundred times. It has been the fodder for many late-night, stand-up comedy routines. Yet, for all our cynical smiles and sarcastic comments in the face of the contestant's grandiosity, there is something deeply and uniquely human about what she has said. There is woven inside each of us a desire for something more— a craving to be part of something bigger, greater, and more profound than our relatively meaningless day-by-day existence. Maybe that's why a human being would ever want to climb Everest, traverse the oceans in an all-too-small sailboat, or attempt any feat not yet accomplished by a fellow human. Perhaps that's why we get hooked on politics, sports, or a myriad of causes that give us something to fight for. ... We simply weren't constructed to live only for ourselves. We were placed on earth to be part of something bigger than the narrow borders of our own survival and our own little definition of happiness.❞ **Paul David Tripp**, "A Quest for More... Living for Something Bigger Than You", p. 14

It seems like "BEING A CHRISTIAN" Isn't THE THING for many Christians— but rather <u>A THING</u> that they take along with them on their QUEST to Find THE THING ..... AGREE?

Clarifying Purpose Statements in Scripture

2 Tim 4:6-7 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

— What Fight? ... What Race? ... What Are YOU Fighting For? What are You Striving to Achieve?

Is 43:1-7
Is 49:1-6

— CONTEXT: "Redemption Amidst Judgement"— God's plan to redeem

God is Doing Something That WE HAVE BEEN DESIGNED & APPOINTED to Accomplish!!

1Pet 2:9 ... but you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession in order that you might show forth the praises of HIM who has called you out of darkness and into His marvelous light.

Jn 15:16, 8 "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide..." 8 "By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."

Matt 28:19 "Go, therefore, into all the world and make disciples"

Life Lessons From Paul's Race (Paul's Race Course... Acts 26 - Rom 15)

Acts 26:1-18... Paul's "Great Commission" (v. 16-18)

- **Becoming a Disciple REDEFINED Paul's Life**
- **Appointed as a Servant and Witness**
- **"The Gentiles to whom I am sending YOU"** ... Paul lived his life as though he were AIMED AT PEOPLE by God's Prescribed Purpose

  Who Has God "Aimed" You At? ... Who are You Strategically Designed to Reach?

- **"to open their eyes"** — HUMAN AGENCY used in Salvation by Grace

  1. "<u>so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God</u>" (1Pet 2:9 ... doesn't tell us HOW God touched us when He Called Us)
  2. "<u>so that they may receive forgiveness of sins</u>"
  3. "<u>and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me</u>"

Rom 15:17-19 ... **Paul's Race in the Rearview Mirror** (the gospel ministry from Jerusalem to Illyricum)

<u>A Legacy of Gospel Ministry</u> ... What Was the "PRODUCT" of Paul's Life's Labor? — Disciples (from Jerusalem to Illyricum)

- **STRUCTURES for DISCIPLE MAKING**: Derbe... Lystra... Iconium... Ephesus... Corinth... Philipi... Thessalonica...

  1 Cor 3:10-15 According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. 11 For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw — 13 each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. 14 If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

— What is this work? ... Matt 28:19

Eph 4:11-16 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

- **INDIVIDUAL DISCIPLES**: Timothy ... Titus ... Silas ... Lydia ... Epaphras... Luke... Archippus...

  2Tim 2:1-2 You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, 2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

... When we look in the rear view mirror of our lives, who do we see that are disciples as a result of our influence in their lives?

- ***At the End of My Life... Will I Have Spiritual Children?*** (Those born into the kingdom, nurtured through spiritual childhood, and prepared for responsible spiritual adulthood through my life's labors)
- ***At the End of My Life... Will Others Be Able to Say "I Entrusted Eternal Truths To Them"?***
- ***At the End of My Life... Will There Be Others Who Will Effectively Carry On the Work— as a Result of My Service and Witness in Their Life?***
- ***At the End of My Life... What Discipleship Structures Will I Have Helped to Build for Those Who Will Come After Me?***

Looking in Rearview Mirrors

The Normal Life of Being a Disciple Maker

Duplication is an Intentional Passion!!

❝ Every Christian needs to take time to select a few people and to determine to spend time teaching them the basic fundamentals, such as Bible study, prayer, outreach, and various ministry skills. But we must be careful not only to teach the content but also to model these truths in our lives. The example in outreach is vital; it serves as a catalyst. Each of us should covenant together with one, two, or three others to engage in weekly sessions for a fixed period of time.❞ **Bill Hull**, "Jesus Christ Disciplemaker", p. 36

— Christianity Doesn't Have an OPTION B [non-disciplemaking Christians]

> ❝ Discipling is a function that everyone must be involved in. It isn't optional. We're all to bring people to the knowledge of the Savior and go through the process of helping them mature. We're all to disciple whomever the Lord brings across our path. You will probably have different kinds of relationships with the people you disciple, but discipleship is nothing more than building a friendship with a spiritual basis.❞ **John MacArthur**, "The Master's Plan for the Church," p. 63

❝ You may feel that you don't know much. Find someone who knows less than you do and tell him what you know. Find someone who knows more than you do and listen to him. Teach and be taught.❞ **John MacArthur**, "The Master's Plan for the Church," p. 63