

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for September 28, 2008

The Mission of the Church
Matthew 28:16-20
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Understanding how the church should respond to the prospect of Proposition 8 not passing, based on what the Scriptures teach, requires that we know three different things.

The church needs to know the real problem that we are facing.

The real problem facing the church today is that the world is spiritually dead and under the control of Satan (Ephesians 2:1-2).

We need to know God's solution in respect to the problem that we are facing in this world.

God's solution for the world's spiritual deadness and Satanic control is the gospel of Christ (Romans 1:16).

This is the gospel: "that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

We need to know why we are here.

We are here to make disciples (Matthew 28:19).

The verb "make disciples" is a command from the verb (MATHETEUEO) from which we get the noun "disciple" or "learner."

If we are going to be effective disciple makers we must be characterized by the right attitude (Matthew 28:16-17).

Those who want to be effective disciple makers must be wholeheartedly available to Christ.

The eleven disciples came to Galilee because Christ, after His resurrection, had instructed His "brethren" through certain women to go there (Matthew 28:10).

It appears from 1 Corinthians 15:6 that there were, in addition to Christ's eleven disciples, approximately 500 other followers who made their way to Galilee in order to see the risen Christ.

When those who came to Galilee saw that Christ had risen they worshiped Him, or in other words they knelt or prostrated themselves before Christ recognizing Him as their living Lord.

When Matthew 28:17 tells us that some of them doubted, it simply means that when Christ first appeared that some of them were not in a position to know for certain that He was in fact Christ.

Any doubt that might have existed in the minds of those who came to the mountain in Galilee would have been removed after Christ came up and spoke to them in Matthew 28:18.

May God give us the grace to wholeheartedly commit ourselves to the work of making disciples.