

# THE GREAT COMMISSION

Discussion Guide  
November 19, 2011

## “Missions: Preaching the Unsearchable Riches of Christ”

Ephesians 3:1-12

**Ephesians 3:1-12** — <sup>1</sup>For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— <sup>2</sup> assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup> how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. <sup>4</sup> When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup> which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. <sup>7</sup> Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, <sup>10</sup> so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup> This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup> in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

### Sermon Outline

- I. **There Is No Plan B / Why Going Is Urgent, Not Optional**
  - A. All People Reject God
  - B. All People Are Condemned for Rejecting God
  - C. God Has Made A Way of Salvation for the Lost
  - D. People Can Not Come to God Apart from Faith in Christ
  - E. Christ Commands the Church To Make the Gospel Known To All People
- II. **Another Reason for Missions – Worship**
  - A. Worship As A Driving Passion for Missions from Psalms (Ps 67; 96; 22)
  - B. God’s Grace Creates Mission-Minded People (Eph 3:7-8)
  - C. The Mission: To Preach the unsearchable riches of Christ (Eph 3:8)
  - D. To bring to light the plan of our creator God for everyone (Eph 3:9)
  - E. So the wisdom of God might be made known (Eph 3:10)
- III. **The Christian & Missionary Alliance – The Great Commission Fund**
  - A. <http://www.cmalliance.org/about/great-commission-fund>
  - B. More than 2000 churches in the U.S.
  - C. Approximately 20,000 fellowships in 81 countries around the world
- IV. **Application**
  - A. Pray (1 Tim 2:1-4) - <http://www.operationworld.org>
  - B. Give (2 Cor 8:1-7)
  - C. Go (Matt 28:18-20) Declare the unsearchable riches of Christ NOW

**Romans 10:13** — For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

**Psalms 67:3-4** — Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! 4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Selah

**Psalms 96:3** — Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!

**Psalms 96:10** — Say among the nations, “The Lord reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.”

**Psalms 22:27-28** — 27 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you. 28 For kingship belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.

**Ephesians 2:7** — so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

**John 8:12** — Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

## Discussion Questions

1. Do you believe there is a large sense of urgency in the Church towards living the Great Commission (Matt 28:18-20)? Why or why not?
2. What are the largest factors for missions that you see from the Scriptures? The church? Your experience?
3. What are some ways that you have seen God's grace creating mission-minded people in the Scriptures? In the church? In you?
4. Even though it is "unsearchable" what are some ways that God defines the "riches of Christ"?
5. What are some ways that the local church fulfills the "call" of God with respect to missions?
6. How has God called and gifted you to fulfill the Great Commission?

### NOTES

F C A G R F G I V E N U U J		
O H S R E V E A L E D K I J		
V R S T G E N T I L E S K G		
M I U R E V E L A T I O N H		
G S M B T W R P U H I A O T		
K T I I B R A E M A N C W N		
R H N P E R T R A P S C N N		
A E G C H R I C D O I O H P		
S A A G A V O E E S G R O A		
H R G D L O N I F T H D L U		
G D B O F I S V J L T I Y L		
B P R I S O N E R E Y N P B		
B L P R O P H E T S S G G E		
M O T H E R E A S O N U K E		
M Y S T E R Y L I S O N S N		
ACCORDING	APOSTLES	ASSUMING
BEEN	BEHALF	BRIEFLY
CHRIST	GENERATIONS	GENTILES
GIVEN	GOSPEL	GRACE
HEARD	HOLY	INSIGHT
JESUS	KNOWN	MADE
MYSTERY	OTHER	PAUL
PERCEIVE	PRISONER	PROPHETS
READ	REASON	REVEALED
REVELATION	SONS	STEWARDSHIP

**Ephesians 2:12-13** — 12 remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

**1 Peter 2:9** — But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

**Romans 11:33** — Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

**Matthew 28:18-20** — 18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

**Ephesians 3:20** — Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,

**Revelation 5:9-10** — 9 And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, 10 and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

### God's Vision and Mission for the Alliance Bible Church

The Alliance Bible Church is a multi-cultural church celebrating the life of Christ in us by:

- Proclaiming the full message of God's Good News to the diverse cultures of McHenry and surrounding communities,
- Discipling believers in living the deeper Christian life,
- Equipping His people for the work of ministry, and
- Demonstrating the unconditional love of Jesus to our community through meaningful acts of service.