

DO WE REALLY BELIEVE?

**Foundations for Life in Christ and
Leadership in the Church**

David Platt
McLean Bible Church

The Mission of MBC

We glorify God by making disciples and multiplying churches among all nations,
beginning in greater Washington, D.C.

The Mission of Our Lives

- To enjoy God's grace in a relationship with Him.
- To exalt God's glory to the ends of the earth.

How Do We Accomplish This Mission?

- We glorify God by growing as disciples of Jesus.
- We glorify God by making disciples of Jesus.
- We glorify God by multiplying churches that reflect Jesus.

Where Do We Accomplish This Mission?

- Among all nations.

One Conclusion...

- To be a disciple of Jesus is to let His global cause dictate everything you think, desire, and do.

One Question...

- Do we really believe the Bible?

Do we really believe what the Bible says about the _____ church _____?

¹⁸ While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Matthew 4:18-22

Christian:

A Bible-believing, gospel-embracing follower of Jesus.

"Follow ME..."

- Matthew 1:

- Jesus is the Savior, the _____ Messiah _____, the son of David, and the son of Abraham.
- He is fully _____ human _____ and fully _____ divine _____.

- Matthew 2:

- Jesus is the Sovereign over the wise and the _____ Shepherd _____ of the weak.
- He inaugurates the new exodus, ends the mournful _____ exile _____, and loves His fiercest enemies.

- Matthew 3:

- He is the Savior _____ King _____ and the Righteous _____ Judge _____.
- He is filled with the Spirit and loved by the _____ Father _____.

- Matthew 4:

- He is the new _____ Adam _____ and the true _____ Israel _____.
- He is the _____ light _____ of the world and the _____ hope _____ for all people.

- Clearly:

- Jesus is worthy of far more than church attendance and casual _____ association _____.
- Jesus is worthy of total abandonment and supreme _____ adoration _____.

“FOLLOW me...”

- To follow Jesus is to live with radical abandonment for His glory.

²⁵Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, ³⁰saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³²And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. ³³So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:25-33

- We leave behind all things...

- Our comfort.
- Our careers.
- Our possessions.
- Our position.
- Our families.
- Our friends.
- Our safety.
- Our sin.
- Ourselves.

- We live for one thing...

- To honor the King.

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Matthew 13:44

- To follow Jesus is to live with joyful dependence on His grace.

- He takes the initiative to choose us.

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, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

John 15:16

- He provides the power to _____ use _____ us.

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

John 15:5

- He gets the glory _____ through _____ us.

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

John 15:7-11

- To follow Jesus is to live with faithful _____ adherence _____ to His person.
 - We are not _____ casual _____ listeners.
 - We are not convinced listeners.
 - We are _____ committed _____ learners and followers.

⁶⁰ When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?" ⁶¹ But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, "Do you take offense at this? ⁶² Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³ It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴ But there are some of you who do not believe." (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) ⁶⁵ And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father." ⁶⁶ After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. ⁶⁷ So Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, ⁶⁹ and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."

John 6:60-69

- To follow Jesus is to live with total _____ trust _____ in His authority.

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20

- He is the Master of every _____ domain _____ in our lives.
- He is the Lord of every _____ detail _____ in our lives.

- To follow Jesus is to live with urgent obedience to His mission.

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.

Matthew 18:19-20

- Every follower of Jesus is a fisher of men; every disciple is a disciple maker.
- This is an unconventional plan that requires a universal response.

- Clearly:

- The cost of discipleship is great.

²³ And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. ²⁵ For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?

Luke 9:23-25

- The cost of non-discipleship is far, far greater.

²¹ And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." ²² Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. ²³ And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" ²⁴ And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁶ And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, "Then who can be saved?" ²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God." ²⁸ Peter began to say to him, "See, we have left everything and followed you." ²⁹ Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, ³⁰ who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life.

Mark 10:21-30

- For our lives.
- For the church.
- For the lost.

Do we really believe what the Bible says about the _____ lost _____ ?

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Luke 19:10

Lost:

Separated from God, unable to find their way back to Him,
and on a road that leads to everlasting suffering in Hell.

And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:15

- Hell is a place of ultimate _____ justice _____.

After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for his judgments are true and just; for he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and has avenged on her the blood of his servants."

Once more they cried out, "Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up forever and ever." And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who was seated on the throne, saying, "Amen.

Hallelujah!"

Revelation 19:1-4

- Hell is a place of _____ fiery _____ agony.

"And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, 'where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.'"

Mark 9:43-48

- Hell is a place of conscious _____ torment _____.

"The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house—for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.'"

Luke 16:22-28

- Hell is a place of outer darkness.

"I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness."

Matthew 8:11-12

- Hell is a place of weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Matthew 25:30

- Hell is a place of continual rebellion.

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:9-11

"The sinner in hell does not become morally neutral upon his sentence to hell. We must not imagine the damned sinner displaying gospel repentance and longing for the presence of Christ. The damned indeed are longing for an escape from punishment, but they are not 'new creations.' They do not, in hell, love the Lord their God with heart, mind, soul, and strength. Instead, they are now handed over to the full display of their natures apart from grace, natures that are satanic (John 8:44). Thus, the condemnation continues forever and ever and ever, with no end in view either for the sin or the punishment thereof."

Russell Moore

- Hell is a place of vile association.

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'"

Matthew 25:41

"But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

Revelation 21:8

- Hell is a place of divine destruction.

But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

2 Peter 3:7

- Hell is a place of complete separation.

They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might ...

2 Thessalonians 1:9

“None but one who really knows God can begin to estimate what it will mean to be eternally banished from the Lord. Forever separated from the Fount of all goodness! Never to enjoy the light of God’s countenance! Never to bask in the sunshine of His presence. This, this is the most awful of all.”

A.W. Pink

- Hell is a place of eternal duration.

“And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.”

Daniel 12:2

The sinners in Zion are afraid; trembling has seized the godless: “Who among us can dwell with the consuming fire? Who among us can dwell with everlasting burnings?”

Isaiah 33:14

“And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Matthew 25:46

And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also will drink the wine of God’s wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name.”

Revelation 14:9-11

Once more they cried out, “Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up forever and ever.”

Revelation 19:3

And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Revelation 20:9-10

“Thus it is in Hell; they would die, but they cannot. The wicked shall be always dying but never dead; the smoke of the furnace ascends for ever and ever. Oh! Who can endure thus to be ever upon the rack? This word ‘ever’ breaks the heart.”

Thomas Watson

“To help your conception, imagine yourself to be cast into a fiery oven, all of a glowing heat, or into the midst of a blowing brick-kiln, or of a great furnace, where your pain would be as much greater than that occasioned by accidentally touching a coal of fire, as the heat is greater. Imagine also that your body were to lie there for a quarter of an hour, full of fire, as full within and without as a bright coal of fire, all the while full of quick sense; what horror would you feel at the entrance of such a furnace! And how long would that quarter of an hour seem to you! If it were to be measured by a glass, how long would the glass seem to be running! And after you had endured it for one minute, how overbearing would it be to you to think that you had yet to endure the other fourteen. But what would be the effect on your soul, if you knew you must lie there enduring that torment to the full for twenty-four hours! And how much greater would be the effect, if you knew you must endure it for a whole year, and how vastly greater still, if you knew you must endure it for a thousand years! O then, how would your heart sink, if you thought, if you knew, that you must bear it forever and ever! That there would be no end! That after millions of millions of ages, your torment would be no nearer to an end, than ever it was; and that you never, never should be delivered! But your torment in Hell will be immeasurably greater than this illustration represents. How then will the heart of a poor creature sink under it! How utterly inexpressible and inconceivable must the sinking of the soul be in such a case.”

Jonathan Edwards

“When you look forward, you shall see a long forever, a boundless duration before you, which will swallow up your thoughts, and amaze your soul; and you will absolutely despair of ever having any deliverance, any end, any mitigation, any rest at all; you will know certainly that you must wear out long ages, millions and millions of ages, in wrestling and conflicting with this almighty merciless vengeance; and then you will have so done, when so many ages have actually been spent by you in this manner, you will know that all is but a point to what remains.”

Jonathan Edwards

Do We Really Believe?

_____ Radical _____ obedience is not an option for people who really believe the Bible.

- We must call every member of MBC to a _____ high _____ calling.
- We must call every member of MBC to _____ total _____ commitment.
- We must call every member of MBC to _____ die _____ to self, and to _____ live _____ for Jesus.
- We must be compassionate, patient, and realistic about slow growth and progress in the Christian life, but we must not create a form of Christianity, or an unbiblical kind of church, that accommodates _____ unrepentance _____ and _____ uncommitment _____.
- When we lovingly, clearly, and patiently call people to the high calling of following Jesus according to the Bible, those who are _____ born again _____ will follow, wholeheartedly.
 - God's Word will do this _____ work _____.
 - God's Word will not return void.

Practical Takeaway

- Spend an hour alone with God this week doing the following exercise.

Open your Bible to Luke 14. Imagine being in the crowd of people following Jesus, and read Luke 14:25-35. Then write out your answer to the questions below...

If you were in that crowd and you heard these words, what would be your initial reaction?

What do you think Jesus means when he says his followers must hate their family members?

What do you think Jesus means when he says his followers must hate their own lives?

According to this passage, what does it cost to follow Jesus?

Practically, what is it costing you to follow Jesus?

Would you describe your obedience to Jesus as radical? Why or why not?

How do you think your obedience to Jesus needs to be more radical?

Now turn over to Luke 18. Imagine yourself in the shoes of the rich man, and read Luke 18:18-30. Then write out your answers to the questions below.

Do you think this man really wanted to follow Jesus? Why or why not?

Do you think Jesus was literally telling this man to sell all he had and give it to the poor? Why would he tell him that?

Do you think Jesus would say the same thing to you today if you were to see him? Why or why not?

If Jesus were to say these words to you today, how do you think you would respond?

Why do you think it is hard for the rich to enter the kingdom of God?

Why do you think Jesus takes such a radical stance on riches?

*Do you think Jesus' words, if taken seriously, would have a radical effect on our church?
What would that effect look like?*

*Do you think Jesus' words, if taken seriously, would have a radical effect on your life?
What would that effect look like?*

Finally, turn to Luke 19. Read Luke 19:28-44, paying particularly close attention to Luke 19:41. Then write out your answers to the questions below.

Why do you think Jesus wept when he saw the city of Jerusalem?

Keep in mind that Jesus was weeping over the people who were about to crucify Him. What does this teach us about Jesus' compassion?

Jesus knew that Jerusalem was about to be destroyed. What effect do you believe that had on Jesus' perception of the people in that city?

Do you believe people who do not trust in Jesus will be punished with everlasting destruction? What emotions does that incite in you?

If you believe that people without Jesus will one day be punished with everlasting destruction, how does this change the way you live everyday?

Would you say that your life is marked by the compassion of Jesus for the lost? Why or why not?

How do you think this kind of compassion for the lost can become more of a reality in your life? What would such compassion look like practically in your life?