

3. Read the sermon passages Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 12:28-31.
Now as you look at Joshua 24:15, what personally moves you about this one verse?

4. *Frankly speaking, are you really serious about serving the Lord? If so, how do you show it?*

By what symbol of commitment is that evident to others?

How does what you are doing help fulfill the sermon passages?

TAKING IT HOME

Using the steps of covenant that Joshua led his people to do, use this time to renew your commitment to the Lord by:

- *Write one thing God has done for you or your family in 2009 (1-13)*
- *List a concrete step to demonstrate your commitment to God (14-18)*
- *What is the "god" you wish to now "forsake" (23-24)*
- *Spend a moment in praise & prayer to the Lord right now regarding what you have written.*



The Purpose

The local church exists as God's **chosen vehicle**, for **helping** believers in the fulfillment of the **Great Commission**.

- The Command - **Make Disciples**

- the actions - **on our part**

1st = **Go**

Jesus said "Just as the Father has sent me, so I send you," - Jn 20:21

- This is the **CONNECTING** component of our ministry

2nd = **Baptize**

...rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith. - Col. 2:7

- *This is the CHALLENGING component of our ministry*

3rd = **Teaching**

Teach them the decrees and laws, and show them the way to live and the duties they are to perform. - Ex 18:20

- *This is the SERVE component of our ministry*

Ultimately the point of God's Story is not missions, it's not salvation, it's not families, and it's not disciple making. The point of God's Story is God! The most crucial issue in missions is the centrality of God in the life of the church - Where people are not stunned by the greatness of God; how can they be sent with the ringing message, "Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods?" - Ps. 96:4... The greatest result of making disciples like Jesus did is the glory it brings to God. - John Piper, Let the Nations Be Glad!

Jesus' pattern to follow...

I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.

- John 17:4

His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known ...

- Eph. 3:10-11

Community Group Homework

For the week of October 18, 2009

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back over your sermon notes, was there any particular point or passage of Scripture that most challenged, confused or caught your attention?

- *Share it with your group.*

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

If you could live in any period of history, when would you choose? Why would you choose then?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Joshua 24:1-13 is a quick review of Israel's history. As you read it, test yourself to see how much of their history you knew.

Think over your own spiritual life. Write down the special times when God made a difference?

3. Read verses 14-15. *Based on all the Lord has done, what does Joshua ask the people to do?*

What does Joshua plan to do himself?