

GOD'S MAGNIFICENT IDEA

Part XV

Philippians 1:1-6

Introduction: I am unable to fathom or adequately express my awe of how privileged we are to serve as ambassadors to our exponential and magnificent God. When I contemplate the ebullience of His holiness and how He permits us, mere fallible, finite human beings, to partner with Him in the winning of the lost, I am overwhelmed. We are mandated to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to everyone who will listen. Mark 16:15. This "Great Commission" proves that God has placed His implicit trust in us to carry out His plan of redemption. With His mantle upon us, 2009 offers us an extraordinary opportunity to win souls to Him.

I. God's magnificent idea

- A. The gifts of the Spirit. God has endowed the church with a litany of supernatural enablements and abilities. The purpose for this plethora of gifts is to make possible the mobilization of His plan to evangelize the world. Mark 16:15.
 1. These ministries represent an expression of Christ in you. 1st Peter 4:10; Colossians 2:9-10. Jesus is the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and He chooses to make us complete in Him and thus share with us all that He is. John 14:12.
 2. Christ, through the gifts of the Spirit, allows the church to function on His behalf, supernaturally enabling us to do so. 1st Corinthians 12:7, 11.
 3. We become a part of His body through the new birth, and then we are baptized in the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38. Since the gifts of the Spirit reside in Him, they are also in us. From that point we must learn how to cooperate with the Holy Spirit. John 1:16. Paul says in Ephesians 4:7, "But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift."
 4. God expects us to operate in the calling that He has given us. We will be judged according to our faithfulness to that calling. Romans 12:1-8. The ministries God has placed in the church calibrate together to make up the fullness of Christ.
 5. When Christ ascended, He took of His fullness and distributed it to the church. This means that every member of the body of Christ has resident within him a measure of God's ability. Ephesians 4:7. That is what makes it possible for us to do the works of Christ. John 14:12. The Greek word for "works" is *ergo*, from which we get our English word energy. The Greek word *meizona* indicates that we will do "greater works" in quantity because there are more of us.
 6. Paul shows us that even though we are many in number, we are one. 1st Corinthians 10:17. When we operate in concert, as a body, we are able to accomplish the most good for God.
 7. The Lord has made available to us the protection we need to keep us safe. Because of the strategic position we have in Christ, we are a target for the enemy. Paul details the available armament God has made available to protect us from harm. Ephesians 6:10-18. Psalm 91.
 8. 1st Corinthians 12:7-11 outlines nine of the gifts of the Spirit that cover any exigency we may face. Paul also lists additional gifts that God has made available to the church. Romans 12:3-8. Operating these gifts under the anointing of the Holy Spirit will produce the results God has promised.
 9. Paul continues to teach us that God wants us to depend totally upon Him. The anointing of the Holy Spirit supersedes human wisdom. 1st Corinthians 2:4-14. Here, Paul talks about a supernatural revelation that taps directly into God's throne room. The last day move of God that we are entering into will have signs and wonders accompanying it.

Conclusion: It is exciting to think about the climactic days in which we are living. God is beginning to sum up all things. The coming of the Lord cannot be far off. The signs are pointing to His soon return. That is why we must put "the pedal to the metal" in regards to the work of the Lord. We dare not slow our efforts to win our generation to Christ. Revelation 3:11 – "Behold, I come quickly."