

GPS -- God's Plan for Sharing

By Dr. Franklin L. Kirksey

God's Plan for Sharing also known as *GPS* is the evangelistic emphasis for Southern Baptists encouraged through the North American Mission Board. Let us explore three areas related to this vital endeavor.

Apprehension about Sharing

Some are apprehensive about being a verbal witness. Dr. Richard H. Seume, former chaplain at Dallas Theological Seminary, states, "We were not converted to be introverted." We must remember that Jesus Christ is in us, with us and upon us to share the good news of the Gospel. Jesus promises in the Great Commission, "I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20b). We discover this promise echoed and expanded in Hebrews 13:5-6, "Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.' So we may boldly say: / The LORD is my helper; / I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

Approach for Sharing

The Great Commission sourcebook is the Bible. Dr. O.S. Hawkins, President and Chief Executive Officer of GuideStone Financial Resources, shares the following about the Great Commission in *Where Angels Fear To Tread: Confronting Seven Vital Issues Facing the Church*, "Matthew's account of the Great Commission [Matthew 28:18-20] gives us the Mechanics (we are to 'make' disciples, 'mark' them by baptism, and 'mature' them in the faith). These are the mechanics of the Great Commission. Mark's account of the Great Commission [Mark 16:15] gives us the Measure of it. We are to take this gospel to the whole world. Luke's account of the Great Commission gives us the Message of it. What is it? (Luke 21:47) — "That repentance and remission of sins should be preached in . . . all nations."¹

God's Plan for Sharing presents a biblical approach to accomplishing the task assigned to every believer. Evangelism is one thing we will not be able to do in eternity.

Applause after Sharing

Dr. Les Hughes, Senior Pastor of the Westwood Baptist Church in Alabaster, Alabama, makes the following statement in his book titled *The Sound of God's Applause: Living a Life that Glorifies the Father*, "If our service is only for people, we have to depend on people for our reward. Often a reward doesn't come at all. Even when people do reward and applaud me, the favor of people is nothing compared to God's blessing. Human approval is temporary; God's approval is eternal."² May we wait to hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord" (Matthew 25:21). The Lord commissioned Isaiah to share the message without the trappings of external success. We too are called to be faithful not necessarily successful.

The Apostle Paul warns, “Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one’s praise will come from God” (1 Corinthians 4:5).

May the Lord use each one of us as we follow *God’s Plan for Sharing*.

¹O.S. Hawkins, *Where Angels Fear To Tread: Confronting Seven Vital Issues Facing the Church* (Nashville: Broadman Press, 1984), p. 89

²Les Hughes, *The Sound of God’s Applause: Living a Life that Glorifies the Father* (Bradenton, FL: Outcome Publishing, 2009), p.88

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