



# Major Bible Themes

52 VITAL DOCTRINES OF THE SCRIPTURE  
SIMPLIFIED AND EXPLAINED

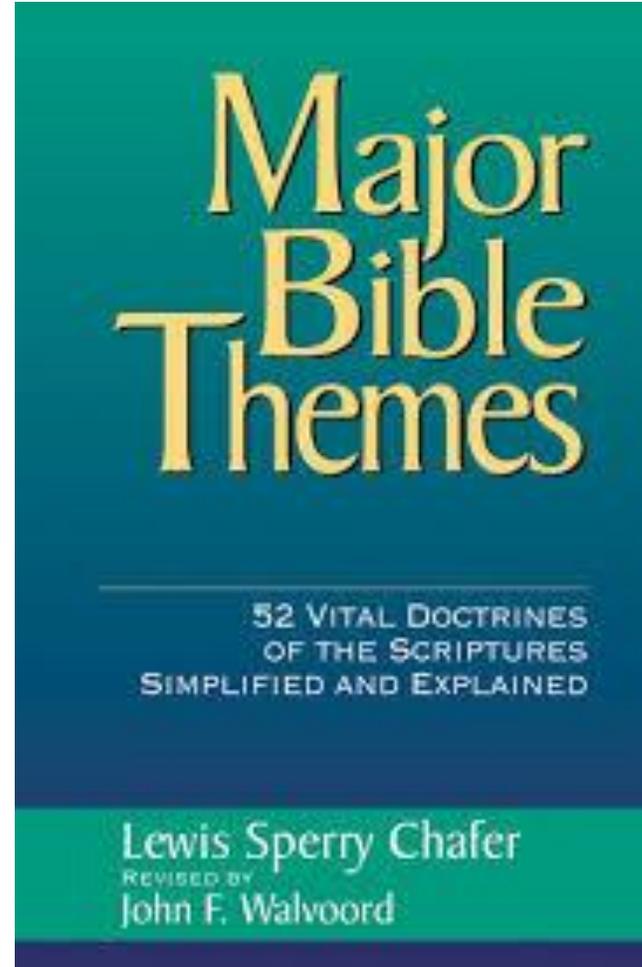
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REVISED BY  
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## Chapter Thirty Six

**The Church: Her Purpose and Commission**

# Step # One Chapter Thirty Six: The Church: Her Purpose and Commission

## Find the Outline



# Chapter Thirty Six: The Church: Her Purpose and Commission

A. Present **Purpose** in the World

B. **Formation** of the Church

C. Believer's **Commission**

# MBT Chapter Thirty Six Outline

Understand It

## Chapter Thirty Six: The Church: Her Purpose and Commission

### Introduction

By means of the church in the present age, God is now making known His wisdom and manifesting His grace to the angelic host In heaven the church will eternally be the illustration of what the grace of God can do

Strictly speaking, however, the divine commission of the church is given to individual believers rather than to the corporate body. In the church corporately, through individual believers God is fulfilling a present divine purpose which is unfolding exactly as prophesied in the Scriptures.



# Understand It



## A. Present **Purpose** in the World

The present divine purpose of this age is not the conversion of the world, but rather the **calling out from the world those who will believe** in Christ to form the body of Christ which is the church. It is true that the world will be converted, and there is yet to be a kingdom of righteousness in the earth; but according to the Bible, that day of a transformed earth, far from being the result of Christian service, is said to **follow** rather than precede the return of Christ, and is said to be made possible only by His personal presence and immediate power.

## Understand It



It is only after the smiting of the Stone - a symbol of the return of Christ - that the God of heaven sets up an everlasting kingdom in the earth. It is after the Lord returns and sits on the throne of His glory that He directs the sheep on His right hand to enter the earthly kingdom prepared for them. In like manner, it is after He is seen descending from heaven that Christ reigns a thousand years on the earth

When anticipating the peculiar features of this age the Lord made mention of three major characteristics: **(1)** Israel's place in the world would be as a treasure hid in the field **(2)** evil would continue to the end of the age; and **(3)** the children of the kingdom - who are likened to wheat, to a pearl of great cost, and to good fish- shall be gathered out

## Understand It



Of these three characteristics of the age, it is disclosed that the last, or the gathering out of the children of the kingdom, **constitutes the supreme purpose of God in this age.** In accordance with this, it is stated that Israel's present blindness is only "until" the completion of the church, the end of the age of special Gentile blessing.

In Acts 15:13-19 the substance of James's address at the conclusion of the first council of the church in Jerusalem is given and addresses the present purpose of God. James states that, according to Peter's experience in the house of Cornelius the Gentile, God is **first visiting Gentiles** to take out of them a people for His name. "**After this,**" James continues, the Lord will return and then will fulfill all His purposes for Israel and the Gentiles.

# MBT Chapter Thirty Six Outline

## Understand It



The practical bearing of all this upon the subject of this study is that, in the present age, **never** is the individual believer (much less the church) **appointed of God to a world-improvement program**; but the believer is called to be a witness in all the world to Christ and His saving grace, and through this ministry of gospel preaching the Spirit of God will accomplish the supreme divine purpose in the age which is to bring people into the Kingdom.

# Understand It



## B. **Formation** of the Church

Christ prophesied that He would build His church and the Apostle Paul likened the church to a structure of living stones growing "unto a **holy temple** in the Lord" and "built together for a **habitation of God** through the Spirit".

Likewise, the believer's ministry of soul-winning and edification of the body of Christ continues "till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ" The "stature of the fulness of Christ" does not refer to the development of Christlike men, but rather to the development of the body of Christ to its completion. The same truth is restated that the members of the body, like living cells in the human body, through soul-winning make "increase of the body."

## Understand It



### C. Believer's **Commission**

Christ gave a prediction that the seed-sowing which is to characterize the present age would result in only a fourth portion be coming "wheat". The child of God is commissioned to be instant in season and out of season in his efforts to win the lost. He is appointed to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature knowing that faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. It is also stated that God who was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, has committed to us the word of reconciliation. "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God"

This ministry rests upon every believer alike and may be exercised in many ways:

### 1. Gospel Presented through Gifts

Evidently there are many earnest believers who would rejoice to win a soul for Christ who have not awakened to the effectiveness of giving their substance to this end. The messenger cannot go except he be sent, but the one who sends him is a partner in the service and has taken stock which will pay eternal dividends.

### 2. Gospel Presented through Prayer





3. Gospel Presented through Word of mouth  
Since all are commissioned to this task, there are certain imperative conditions to be observed: (a) the messenger must be willing to be placed where the Spirit wills; (b) the messenger should be instructed as to the precise truths which constitute the gospel of grace which he is appointed to declare; (c) the messenger must be Spirit-filled, else he will lack that impelling passion for the lost which alone prompts one to fearless and tire less soul-winning service. "After that the Holy Ghost is come upon you," Christ said, "... ye shall be witnesses unto me" Apart from this filling, there will be no disposition to witness. But, being filled, there is no staying the outflow of divine compassion

#### 4. Gospel Presented through Mechanical means

The Gospel may be also presented by various mechanical means such as literature, the radio, television, and sacred music. Regardless of means, the truth must be presented in such a way that the Holy Spirit can use it.

#### 5. Gospel Presented through other means

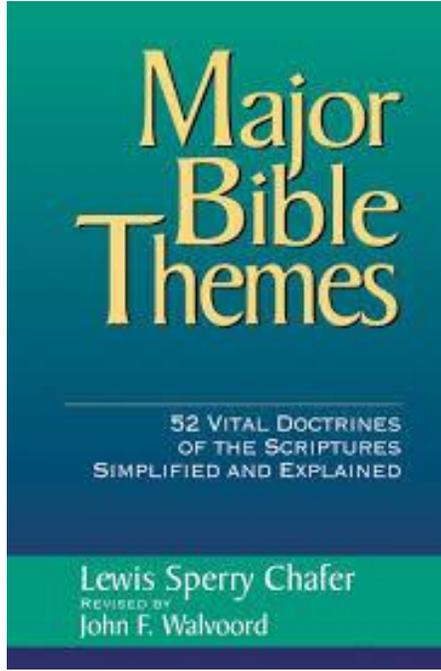
Undoubtedly, God uses many other means to promote the Gospel such as educational institutions where men are trained to preach, missionary aviation which serves to transport men who are carrying the Gospel, and the printed page



Although every Christian may not be equally effectual in preaching the Gospel directly, every Christian bears a portion of the responsibility of seeing to it that the Gospel is preached to every creature.



# The next principle is to build a physical file cabinet



Mike Borland

What does the Bible  
teach about the  
Church: Her  
Purpose and  
Commission

Chapter 36 : The Church:  
Her Purpose and Commission

Using Major Bible Themes  
write a study about the  
Church: Her Purpose and  
Commission

# Memorize it

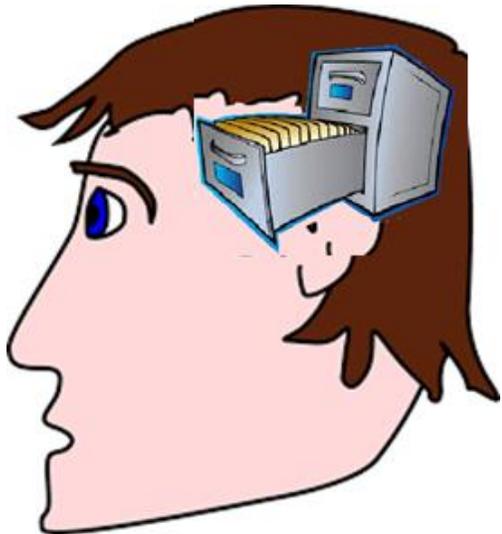


## Chapter Thirty Six: The Church: Her Purpose and Commission

A. Present Purpose in the World

B. Formation of the Church

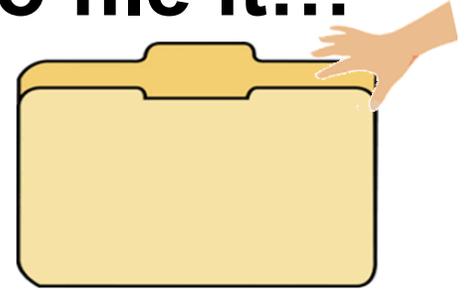
C. Believer's Commission



# Chapter Thirty Six: The Church: Her Purpose and Commission

- A. Present Purpose in the World
- B. Formation of the Church
- C. Believer's Commission

To file it...



Write it Down



Underline Main  
Words...



# Step # Two

**Read the Section and look up the passages**



# **Chapter Thirty Six: The Church: Her Purpose and Commission**

## **A. Present Purpose in the World**

**God is now making known His wisdom and manifesting His grace to the angelic host through the Church**

**Eph 3:10** *To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be **known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,***

**In heaven the church will eternally be the illustration of what the grace of God can do**

**Eph 2:7** *That in the ages to come he might shew the **exceeding riches of his grace** in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.*

**It is only after the smiting of the Stone - a symbol of the return of Christ - that the God of heaven sets up an everlasting kingdom in the earth**

**Dan 2:44** *And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it (the Stone) shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, **and it shall stand for ever.***

**It is after the Lord returns and sits on the throne of His glory that He directs the sheep on His right hand to enter the earthly kingdom prepared for them**

**Mat 25:31** *When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:*

**In like manner, it is after He is seen descending from heaven that Christ reigns a thousand years on the earth**

**Rev 19:11** *And I saw heaven opened, and **behold a white horse**; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.*

**Act 15:16** *After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of **David**, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up:*

# **In the Kingdom of Heaven Parables the Lord made mention of three major characteristics**

## **1. Israel's place in the world would be as a treasure hid in the field**

**Mat 13:44** *Again, the **kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field**; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.*

## **2. Evil would continue to the end of the age**

**Mat 13:25** *But while men slept, his enemy came and **sowed tares** among the wheat, and went his way.*

**Mat 13:33** *Another parable spoke he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is **like unto leaven**, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.*

**Mat 13:48** *Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but **cast the bad away**.*

**3. The children of the kingdom - who are likened to wheat, to a pearl of great cost, and to good fish- shall be gathered out**

**Mat 13:30** *Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, **Gather ye together first the tares**, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.*

**Mat 13:46** *Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and **bought it.***

**Mat 13:48** *Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and **gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.***

**Israel's present blindness is only "until" the completion of the church**

**Rom 11:25** *For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that **blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.***

## A. Present **Purpose** in the World

**The occasion of the council at Jerusalem was to determine this same question as to the present purpose of God.**

**Act 15:16-17** *After this I will return, and will **build again the tabernacle of David**, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: That the **residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles**, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things.*

Christ prophesied that He would build His church

**Mat 16:18** *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will **build my church**; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

## **B. Formation of the Church**

**Apostle Paul likened the church to a structure of living stones**

**Eph 2:21-22** *In whom all the **building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.***

**The believer's ministry of soul-winning and edification of the body of Christ doesn't continues for ever**

**Eph. 4:13** *...till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ*

**The "stature of the fulness of Christ" does not refer to the development of the body of Christ to its completion**

**Eph 1:22-23** *And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to **the church, Which is his body**, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.*

**Eph 4:16** *From whom the **whole body fitly joined** together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh **increase of the body** unto the edifying of itself in love.*

## C. Believer's **Commission**

Christ gave a prediction that the seed-sowing would result in but a fourth portion be coming "wheat" (Matt. 13:1-23).

**Nevertheless, though the preaching of the gospel relates to death as well as to life**

**2Co 2:16** *To the one we are the **savour of death unto death**; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?*

**Appointed to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature**

*Mar 16:15* **And he said unto them, **Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.****

## Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God

**Rom 10:17** *So then **faith cometh by hearing**, and hearing by the word of God.*

## Committed to us the word of reconciliation

**2Co 5:19** *To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath **committed unto us the word of reconciliation.***

**2 Cor. 5:20** *Now then we are **ambassadors for Christ**, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, **be ye reconciled to God***

## C. Believer's **Commission**

### 1. Gospel Presented through Gifts

**Eph 4:11** *And **he gave some**, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;*

### 2. Gospel Presented through Prayer

**John 14:14** *If ye shall **ask any thing in my name**, I will do it*

### 3. Gospel Presented through Word of mouth

**Rom 10:14** *How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear **without a preacher?***

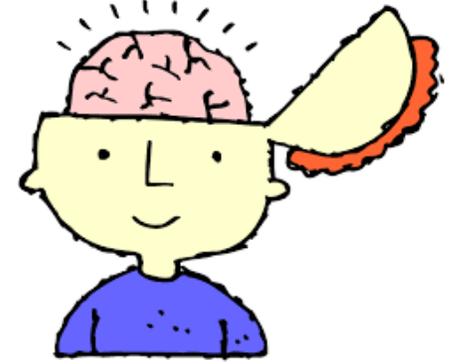
**Act 1:8** *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be **witnesses unto me** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

# Step # Three

## Memorize one Passage per section

Learn general and specific later.

- Highlight key words
- Understand difficult words and the meaning



Read out loud 5 times what you are trying to memorize



Write the verse on paper or put the verse into you phone



# **Step # Four      Take the Test at the end of the chapter**

## **Chapter Thirty Six: The Church: Her Purpose and Commission**

1. How is the church related to manifesting the grace of God?

By means of the church in the present age, God is now making known His wisdom and manifesting His grace to the angelic host In heaven the church will eternally be the illustration of what the grace of God can do

2. Who directs each believer in the path of the Lord's will?

The Holy Spirit

3. Contrast the purpose of God in the present age with His purpose in the millennial kingdom.

The present divine purpose of this age is not the conversion of the world, but rather the **calling out from the world those who will believe** in Christ to form the body of Christ which is the church. It is the purpose of the Kingdom to bring in righteousness.

4. What is necessary before the world can be converted?

The conversion of the World is said to be made possible by the return of Christ and by His personal presence and immediate power.

5. Name the three major characteristics which form the peculiar features of this age according to Matthew 13.

When anticipating the peculiar features of this age the Lord made mention of three major characteristics: **(1)** Israel's place in the world would be as a treasure hid in the field **(2)** evil would continue to the end of the age; and **(3)** the children of the kingdom - who are likened to wheat, to a pearl of great cost, and to good fish- shall be gathered out

6. What will be some of the immediate results for Israel and the world when God's present purpose for the church is completed at the Rapture?

In Acts 15:13-19 it tells us that God is **first visiting Gentiles** to take out of them a people for His name. "**After this,**" James continues, the Lord will return and then will fulfill all His purposes for Israel and the Gentiles.

7. According to Acts 15, what is the order of God's program for blessing on Gentiles and blessing on the Jews

In Acts 15:13-19 it tells us that God is **first visiting Gentiles** to take out of them a people for His name. "**After this,**" James continues, the Lord will return and then will fulfill all His purposes for Israel and the Gentiles.

8. Describe God's present purpose in building His church.

The Church would be a structure of living stones growing "unto a **holy temple** in the Lord" and "built together for a **habitation of God** through the Spirit".

9. What is the believer's present commission

*Mar 16:15 And he said unto them, **Go ye into all the world**, and preach the gospel to every creature.*

10. Name the various ways by which a believer can exercise his privilege of extending the Gospel to the world.

1. Gospel Presented through Gifts
2. Gospel Presented through Prayer
3. Gospel Presented through Word of mouth
4. Gospel Presented through Mechanical means
5. Gospel Presented through other means

11. What are some of the basic conditions for being an effective messenger of the Gospel

Since all are commissioned to this task, there are certain imperative conditions to be observed: (a) the messenger must be willing to be placed where the Spirit wills; (b) the messenger should be instructed as to the precise truths which constitute the gospel of grace which he is appointed to declare; (c) the messenger must be Spirit-filled.

12. In what sense is every Christian responsible for preaching the Gospel to every creature?

Although every Christian may not be equally effectual in preaching the Gospel directly, every Christian bears a portion of the responsibility of seeing to it that the Gospel is preached to every creature.