

## **Into All the World**

### Introduction:

- A. We live in exciting times, as old barriers of tyranny come down and liberty sweeps the globe. - e.g., watching the Berlin wall come down
  - B. The greatest thrill this offers are the new opportunities to take the gospel to the world. - Mark 16:15
  - C. What is our responsibility toward taking the gospel to other places, and how can we discharge this obligation?
- I. The Lord wants the gospel to be taken to the whole world. - Mark 16:15
- II. The first century church is our model. - Philippians 3:17
- A. Jerusalem
    - 1. They were preeminently successful in local evangelism. - Acts 2:41,47; 4:4; 5:14; 6:7
    - 2. But they had been spiritually near-sighted. - Acts 1:8
    - 3. After they were scattered, their evangelistic success was complete. - Acts 8:1
      - a. Members of the church went everywhere preaching. - Acts 8:4-5,26-31,35,40; 9:31; 10:34-35; 11:19-21
      - b. The church sent evangelists elsewhere. - Acts 11:22-24
  - B. Antioch
    - 1. Paul and Barnabas were very successful in Antioch. - Acts 11:25-26
    - 2. But they were sent to preach in foreign lands. - Acts 13:1-3
  - C. Through such efforts the gospel was taken to the known world in one generation. - Colossians 1:5-6,23; cf. Mark 16:15
- III. If we follow their example, we can do the same in our generation. - Philippians 2:13; Ephesians 3:20-21
- A. attitude: zeal for lost souls - Acts 8:1-4
  - B. means: preach the word - Acts 11:19-21
  - C. organization: local church - Acts 11:22

### Conclusion:

- A. If the first century church could take the gospel to the whole world in one generation without the printing press, radio, television, automobiles, and airplanes; what should we do with all these means at our disposal?!
- B. Our generation faces opportunities and subsequent responsibilities greater than any generation since the first century.
- C. Will we be the greatest success story since the first century or the biggest failure in history?